



Gov. Dirk Kempthorne congratulates employees of the INEEL's Big Shop on receiving the GEMStars Award for their efforts in pollution prevention, waste minimization and water and energy conservation. (INEEL photo by Ron Paarmann)

INEEL's Big Shop receives Idaho GEMStars Award for pollution prevention, water and energy conservation

On Thursday, Aug. 28, 2003, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne presented employees at the INEEL's Big Shop with the Idaho GEMStars Award for their efforts in pollution prevention, waste minimization and water and energy conservation.

The Big Shop, located at the INEEL's Central Facility Area, has implemented nearly two dozen pollution prevention practices, including being a solvent-free operation, the elimination of aerosols, using mercury free batteries and alternate fuel conversions. The Big Shop provides vehicle maintenance services for the INEEL's fleet of 1,500 buses, heavy equipment and light vehicles.

To honor the employees, a public event was held that afternoon at 3 p.m. on the north side of EROB.

"Being named a member of the Idaho GEMStars program is a great achievement for the INEEL and particularly the employees working at the Big Shop," said Bill Shipp, INEEL president and Laboratory director. "Many hours of hard work and effort have been given in order for the Big Shop to be positioned to receive this

award, which further demonstrates our commitment to pollution prevention, and attention to safety for workers and the environment."

Kempthorne presented the Big Shop with a plaque made of recycled glass, a GEMStars membership certificate and a signed letter thanking the employees for their hard work and dedication.

Other speakers during the event included Shipp, Beth Sellers, NE-ID manager, Darrell Buffaloe, Idaho GEMStars steering committee member and Marc Carroll, former manager of the INEEL's Big Shop.

A special employee recognition event was held at 11:30 a.m. at the Big Shop. Helen Rigg, Idaho GEMStars program director and Darrell Buffaloe, GEMStars steering committee member, paid tribute to the employees.

"We are here to honor all of you, the Big Shop employees, for your hard work and attention to pollution prevention. This is a day for you to be proud of," said Marc Carroll, former manager of the Big Shop. "This is truly your award. More than 80 percent of the pollution prevention practices that have been implemented were your ideas. This is a long-term engagement and I am confident that in the future you will continue to follow through with these important environmental practices."

Contact: Bruce Byram (208-526-3127, byrabj@inel.gov)



INEEL President Bill Shipp shows the GEMStars Award. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is seated next to him. (INEEL photo by Ron Paarmann)