

## *ALARA News*

Decontamination and Decommissioning activities at the old hot cell facility at Auxiliary Reactor Area I gave the Central Facilities Area ALARA committee unique opportunities to cut worker radiological exposure. Contamination and radiation levels in the hot cells had to be reduced to let workers saw the four-foot-thick concrete cell walls into pieces small enough to be safely handled.

The area was extensively decontaminated to reduce direct radiation exposure levels and, with RadCon Manager approval, some of the area had contamination fixed in place with paint.

One big dose-saving measure was realized when it was determined that removing exterior walls of Building 626 would allow the crane to get close enough to handle larger blocks of concrete. This effort significantly reduced the dose because fewer saw cuts were needed to get the walls into larger pieces. The saws are operated remotely, keeping workers out of the cell area and further reducing overall exposure.