Welcome to the winter issue of GES’ HSSE Bulletin. The season’s been a rough one, with harsh weather all across the U.S. But hopefully spring isn’t too far off. I’m very pleased that our company-wide focus on making safety personal resonated with our employees, subcontractors, business partners, and clients as we completed a very safe 2013. We’re moving forward with our stewardship and continuous improvement initiatives in 2014.

In 2013, with over 1.4 million hours worked, we experienced just one recordable injury (a strained back) and four first aid cases. This translates to a Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) of only 0.15, and a combined GES + subcontractor TRIR of only 0.12 (NO subcontractor injuries). And we’ve maintained our stable experience modification rating (EMR) at a very low 0.83.

Based on our analysis of LPS tool use, our staff and subs appreciate the value of recognizing near losses, reporting about 510 near loss investigations and completing about 740 loss prevention observations (LPO) in the field. Check out the LPS pyramid summarizing our use of LPS tools and safety results in this issue.

Stay focused and stay safe.
GES employees, subcontractors, clients, and business partners are invited to participate in our new HSSE Blog. We created this web page to give our people a chance to share stories about “How I make HSSE personal every day.” Please read the first of the stories published. We are sure that you will laugh, nod your heads (“it sounds like our family!”) and be touched by some of the personal tales. They give a great insight into how we’ve applied what we’ve learned from the GES program to our personal lives. Your entries are welcome: please send to update@gesonline.com. The blog will be updated regularly – check back often and please feel free to contribute your personal stories.

Nicole Malato, GES HR Manager, received an award by David Dollard Saint-Laurent on behalf of the Shell US Soil and Groundwater team for sharing a great safety culture outside of the company with the HSSE Blog.
The GES safety team is rolling out more aspects of our Stewardship Plan to help us realize our goal of “Nobody Gets Hurt.” Plan components include:

- Visible Leadership
- Improving Communication at all Levels
- Recognition and Sharing Best Practices
- Engaging Employees & Subs to Make Safety Personal
- New LPS Training

We are establishing specific actions by supervisors and managers each day, week, and month of the year, with tracking mechanisms (verification and validation, or V&V) to make sure that we are doing all we can to ensure the consistent and proper use of each LPS tool and keep us safe. We’re well along on training staff & subs on the new LPS program, which incorporates this enhanced stewardship and a real hands-on approach for managers and supervisors to regularly engage personnel in conversations about their specific use of SPSA (safe performance self-assessment) for the current task. Denise Amitrani, GES HSSE Specialist, attended core LPS training and has worked diligently with Tom Baylis and our safety and operations teams to get our entire company trained on the new system. Our seven LPS trainers trained, along with GES leadership and about 1/3 of our staff. All employees will have completed new LPS training by the end of March.

We continue to work on improving communication at all levels with a focus on “making safety personal” and to implement enhancements to our HSSE communications, from monthly safety meetings to sharing of best practices and recognition of our safety champions.

As always, please feel free to contact the Safety Stewardship Committee or any of GES’ leadership with suggestions about YOUR safety program.
ALL EYES ON SAFETY

Sometimes an extra set of eyes and ears provides the extra assurance that our teams are doing everything they should to stay safe on the job. Pete Reichardt of our Maryland office has been helping one of our major oil clients by doing just that, at active project sites along the East Coast. In this role, he’s worked with our client’s environmental consultants and their subs to steward desired behaviors and required safe practices. Site activities have ranged from remediation system OM&M to system removals, pilot testing, sampling, utility clearance, and drilling activities, as well as site security evaluations. Projects ranged from installation of a submerged system discharge pipe by a diving contractor to Geoprobe in the basement of a residential high-rise and manlift of crew and materials over pipeline to install wells in a tidal marsh. “Using my own field experience as a bridge to reach individuals at a personal level was a very successful approach to field level stewardship and peer-to-peer communications,” Pete said. “Besides helping the entire team, participating in daily lessons learned and field discussions also increased my perspective regarding safe work behavior and practice.”

GES EARNS ‘A’ SAFETY RATING

GES’ behavior management tools are adapted to reflect the criteria of each client and project setting. Our JSA (Job Safety Analysis) tool is a prime example; customization is required to reflect site-specific conditions, to ensure that each on-site worker is aware of potential hazards and the critical actions that must be taken to eliminate or protect themselves from harm. We want all of our teams – including workplace partners and subcontractors - to focus on the task at hand and to be constantly aware of changing site conditions. In recent months, GES’ Chevron AMBU team, working on natural gas well pads in the Appalachia shale plays, earned an ‘A’ safety rating reflecting our ability to modify our program to client requirements and our performance related to key performance indicators for OSHA TRIR, DAFWR (Days Away From Work Rate), MVC (motor vehicle crashes), and Spills. Our performance on Chevron sites: a perfect 0.00 for all KPIs.

SUBCONTRACTOR LEADERSHIP FORUMS

GES is continuing its series of subcontractor leadership forums, based on our recognition of the effectiveness of GES and subcontractor company managers and owners gathering to share best practices and lessons learned and to openly discuss common HSSE management concerns. We met with our contractor partners in the Midwest in December, and have a similar gathering on the calendar in the Northeast. We all share in the responsibility for a safe workplace, and a common objective of “Goal Zero.” Subcontractor performance achieved a high level of performance – no OSHA recordable or first aid injuries in 2013. As we all know, complacency is our worst enemy and we all must remain vigilant against job hazards by using the LPS tools, effectively managing short-service workers, and applying appropriate incident and injury case management.
GES’ Connecticut team was asked to support our client in cleaning up a site under a rapid schedule to enable third-party redevelopment for residential and commercial use. Following consideration of alternative approaches, it was determined that excavation would be the best fit. GES’ team appreciated the critical importance of meticulous pre-planning and ongoing stewardship to ensure that this project - involving a 25'-deep excavation in a densely urbanized community - would be executed safely. Accordingly, a series of meetings with the client, developer, and excavation contractor were conducted to communicate and plan for all site issues. Shoring and vibration monitoring was implemented to protect adjacent buildings. The excavation activities were also managed to safely handle additional undocumented materials including orphan USTs, hydraulic lift reservoirs, and large quantities of historic building debris. Ultimately, over 8,000 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and disposed of, and clean fill (from on-site storage and trucked in) was transported down into the excavation space, where it was distributed and compacted.

GES coordinated activities with the developer to make sure that compaction testing met the necessary criteria to allow property redevelopment. The harsh wintry weather (snow, rain, and -10° weather!) added to the need for constant hazard planning and awareness, ongoing communication, and JSA modification. Project stewardship was provided at many levels, and the field supervisor and team - and contracting partners - showed a dedication to safety, completing the project with no losses. Key personnel included field supervisor Drew Croteau and his field support (Steve Leitten and Meghan Donovan) as well as Karen Harris, senior project manager; Herb Woike, LEP; and Jerry Cresap, PE. Because of both the contractors’ and GES staff’s dedication to safety, the team completed the site work without a single loss on the project. Thanks to all for their hard work and expertise on the project.