

Stream of care

Using technology and teamwork helps this employee demonstrate Boeing's commitment to environmental stewardship

by Blythe Jameson and photo by Paul Pinner

Boeing Environment, Health and Safety project manager Lori Blair oversees a multimillion-dollar surface-water remediation program at Santa Susana, Calif. In this *Frontiers* series, which profiles employees talking about their jobs and the way their work fits into Boeing's overall goals, Blair describes how innovative technologies, teamwork and consideration for others equates to environmental stewardship in action.

capture, control and treat rainwater on a 2,850-acre (1,150-hectare) cleanup site that is largely undeveloped and filled with valleys, open spaces, ravines and steep ridgelines. Surface water that leaves Santa Susana, a former federal government rocket engine testing and energy research facility in Southern California, must meet levels specified in our permit for a wide range of constituents. Many of these levels must be cleaner than drinking water. It is unlikely another facility in the United States has permit limits at these very stringent levels.

Working at Santa Susana is a challenge, but it is the most satisfying job I have ever had. There are tremendous physical challenges, technical hurdles, regulatory agency requirements and community concerns to consider in the management, treatment and discharge of surface water.

We are forging new paths in the management of surface water and employ many different technologies and systems to comply with our permit requirements. These range from traditional chemical and physical treatment systems to in-ground flow-through systems using carbon and zeolite that are installed within the natural contours of the land. We also are looking into systems that use plants to slow water flow while treating the water with natural processes.

Teamwork motivates me more than anything and it's really the incredible team at Santa Susana that gets the job done effectively and safely. I have the privilege of working with a great group of engineers, field crews and water quality management experts—all with the same vision and commitment to compliance. Seeing how

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hard work, transparency and good communication promote trust, collaboration and positive working relationships has been especially satisfying.

This work fits perfectly with Boeing's environmental strategies, plans and commitments. We are working to improve our environmental performance in storm-water quality while minimizing our impact on the environment. I like the idea that I'm making a difference. Everyone who works at Santa Susana is aware of the importance of the work we are performing and its significance to our neighbors, the animals that live on the site and the ecosystem. ■

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To learn more about Santa Susana, visit the Community and Environmental Affairs page: www.boeing.com/aboutus/environment/community_affairs.html