



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:**

Sandy Childers  
(740) 897-2336  
Jeff Pinkerton  
(740) 897-2432

## **Nine Workers at Piketon Plant Achieve National Crane Operator Certification**

**PIKETON, OH (November 4, 2009)** – Nine United Steel Worker (USW) Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) 1 Operators at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio, recently achieved national certification in two levels of crane operations following testing opportunities provided by LATA/Parallax Portsmouth (LPP) at the site. To attain certification, the experienced personnel were required to pass a written and a practical examination to demonstrate their abilities to safely operate fixed cab and swing cab cranes.

As the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s environmental remediation contractor at the site, LATA/Parallax used the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) testing process to comply with DOE Standard 1090-2007 and improve the safety of crane lifting activities. The NCCCO program utilizes the knowledge of industry experts to not only enhance safety but to improve performance records, stimulate training, and recognize professionals who work in, with and around cranes.

“These individuals have gone through a standardized mobile crane operations course which ensures the operators’ ability to safely operate mobile cranes and allows them to operate various models of cranes,” said Joel Archer with LATA/Parallax’s Safety and Industrial Hygiene department. “Without our own personnel trained in this operation, we would have had to bring in an outside vendor.”

Those workers earning certification were Michael Parker, Shane Tate, Joe Ruggles, Michael Binkley, Timothy Emmons, William Armstrong, Richard Caldwell, Robert Vallandingham II, and Justin McKenzie. Each passed three written examinations and a practical test to earn certification for the small telescopic (fixed cab) mobile crane, while six attained additional certification for the large telescopic (swing cab) mobile crane.



*LPP-P-09-599: LATA/Parallax employee Timothy Emmons maneuvers a weight through the obstacle course during the practical section of the crane examination administered by NCCCO examiner Bonna Hastings.*



*LPP-P-09-601: Pictured at the NCCCO practical training site are, front from left, Val Tinsley, LATA/Parallax; Bonna Hastings, of America Crane Training, NCCCO examiner; Joe Ruggles, Michael Parker, Joel Archer, LATA/Parallax test site coordinator; Back row: Robert Vallandingham II, Shane Tate, Michael Binkley, William Armstrong, Timothy Emmons, Justin McKenzie, and Richard Caldwell.*

## **LPP-09-008**

**About LATA/Parallax Portsmouth**

LATA/Parallax Portsmouth, LLC performs environmental remediation services, including groundwater cleanup and waste management activities, under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in Piketon, Ohio. Further information is available at <http://www.lports.com> or by calling the Public Affairs Office at (740) 897-2336.