

West Point Contractor of the Year

Since 1994, Merck & Co. has recognized contracting companies that demonstrate outstanding safety leadership, management, and performance on the job. This outstanding performance historically is a team effort between company management, supervision, and the talented labor that supports individual projects each day ensuring OSHA compliance and partnering with Merck to meet our business needs. Merck project teams are solicited for nominations annually which are evaluated by an independent team to select the most deserving recipient for this award. I am proud to announce that **U. S. Piping Inc. was selected as the Contractor of the Year for its' outstanding safety performance during 2007!**

U. S. Piping was nominated for their consistent high level of quality work and their close attention to all aspects of safety from housekeeping to proactive attitudes and behaviors demonstrated by all their workers. U.S. Piping has successfully worked over 51,535 man-hours for 2007 on many Merck projects without a lost-time or recordable incident. Over the past several years, U.S. Piping has maintained this high level of safety while working on many numerous projects including over 1,000 high-risk confined-space entries (with 200 in 2007 alone) which have been critical to Merck operations and in achieving its goals.

U.S. Piping has performed exceptionally well in all matters regarding safety. Each employee consistently demonstrates a proactive attitude, high level of awareness, and accountability on the job. The owners of U.S. Piping have committed resources to ensure each worker's safety. In addition, we would also like to recognize company safety rep. **Ed Pugh** for being a driving force behind workers maintaining such a high level of safety on the job. Also, a special *'thank you'* to **Local 420 Business Agents, Steve Jackson and Chris McInerney**, who continually encourage their members to maintain high safety standards and attention to detail.

U.S. Piping, Inc. has been a vital component in the accomplishments achieved by Merck in both safety and best work practices. U.S. Piping consistently stays ahead of the curve on safety at the West Point Facility. In addition to supporting their own projects, they have been instrumental in providing valuable input and feedback on many safety issues and procedures by working closely with various on-site representatives and peers. (spawling concrete steam vaults)

This competency was demonstrated during many critical on-site projects over the past year including such high profile projects as the **Building 12A Varicella Expansion**, the **Building 16A/17 Lab Renovations**, the **Building 60 Alum Diluent Capacity Expansion**, the **Building 17 Clean Steam Upgrade**, and the site-wide **Steam and Condensate upgrades and maintenance**. U.S. Piping has worked diligently to improve both consistency and safety within their organization and is clearly a leader that is committed to their employees and customers as evident in their company's Mission Statement.

Please join me in congratulating U.S. Piping Inc. on achieving this recognition for such high standards in Safety for 2007 and beyond!