

April/May 2014

ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



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MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK INCLUDED IN DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4435) contains a section that would establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, including facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington.

The opening section of the Manhattan Park language reads as follows. The complete language is available at pages 598-608 of the [bill](#).

Section 2866. Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

- (1) to preserve and protect for the benefit of present and future generations the nationally significant historic resources associated with the Manhattan Project and

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EM AND NNSA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Among many DOE and NNSA leadership transitions this year, ECA recognizes the excellent job Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga has done helming the Office of Environmental Management (EM) while the organization has been without a confirmed assistant secretary for so long. It will still be a while until Monica Regalbuto is confirmed in

that position by the Senate, however, Mark Whitney will soon take over acting leadership of EM until Regalbuto is confirmed. Dave was an excellent steward of EM in a challenging situation and he will be missed when he returns to NNSA.

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Executive Committee



Energy
Communities
Alliance

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City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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Councilmember Robert Thompson
City of Richland, Washington



D.C. Update

It has been over two months since the President released his fiscal year 2015 budget request, and the annual appropriations bills are starting to take shape in Congress. The Senate Appropriations Committee is setting its “302(b) allocations,” which tell each of the 12 appropriations subcommittees how much money they have, and the House has already passed two appropriations bills (Legislative Branch and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs).

The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which provides DOE funding, is expected to move in early June. It’s less certain when the Senate will follow. As in previous years, there is a significant chance the FY15 appropriations bills will not be enacted before FY15 starts on October 1, 2014 and that a “continuing resolution” will be needed to maintain funding at FY14 levels until the bills are passed. Since Congress typically starts with less controversial bills (such as Legislative Branch and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs), the job usually gets harder as the new fiscal year approaches. November elections add further complication this year.

It’s not all about appropriations. The FY15 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the bill that authorizes funding and sets policy for DOE defense programs. The House Armed Services Committee passed its version of the bill this month and that bill will next appear on the House floor (see complete story on page 5). The Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to start consideration of its version of the NDAA on May 20.

In non-budget news, the past month saw the Senate confirm the nomination of Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret), as NNSA Administrator and DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security; a Senate panel considered the nomination of Monica Regalbuto as EM-1; and lawmakers introduced a number of nuclear safety and security bills.

House Lawmakers Request FY15 Funding for DOE Discussions with Potential Host Communities

Nine members of Congress sent a letter on April 2 to Reps. Mike Simpson and Marcy Kaptur, Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, asking for FY15 funding for DOE to engage with potential host communities, states and tribes and to examine reforming funding mechanisms for nuclear waste management and disposal (per recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future). The full letter is available [here](#).

Senators Introduce Legislation to Increase Safety at Nuclear Plants

Senator Barbara Boxer, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Edward J. Markey introduced three bills May 13 to increase safety at nuclear plants.

A joint press release describes the bills as follows:

S.2324, Safe and Secure Decommissioning Act of 2014

The Safe and Secure Decommissioning Act of 2014 would prohibit the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from issuing exemptions from its emergency response or security requirements for spent fuel stored at nuclear reactors that have permanently shut down until all of the spent nuclear fuel stored at the site has been moved into dry casks, which are a more secure and safe option for storage. NRC has determined that earthquakes would be the most likely cause of a spent fuel pool failure that could result in a spontaneous fire, the release of large quantities of radiation, and widespread contamination, but has granted every request from emergency response requirements that it has ever

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D.C. Update

received from a licensee of a decommissioning reactor.

S.2326, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2014

The Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Act of 2014 would ensure that states and local communities have a meaningful role in the crafting and preparation of decommissioning plans for retired nuclear plants located in those areas. The bill also requires NRC to publicly and transparently approve or reject every

proposed decommissioning plan, which it currently is not required to do.

S.2325, Dry Cask Storage Act of 2014

The Dry Cask Storage Act of 2014 would ensure that every nuclear reactor operator complies with an NRC-approved plan that would require the safe removal of spent nuclear fuel from the spent fuel pools and place that spent fuel into dry cask storage within 7 years of the time the plan is submitted to the NRC. The legislation also provides funding to help reactor licensees implement the plans and expands the emergency planning zone for non-compliant reactor operators to 50 miles.

The press release is available [here](#).

DOE RESPONDS TO ECA LETTER ON WIPP INCIDENT

DOE responded this month to ECA's March 7 letter regarding the recent events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which urged DOE to "expedite the investigation of the radiation leak to ensure worker and community safety and protection." The letter additionally requested that DOE continue to pursue the following actions:

- Host town hall meetings and use multiple formal channels to ensure all impacted local governments and states are regularly informed of current and potential activities.
- Emphasize that the safety response systems in place at WIPP worked as they were designed to contain the release.
- Support the US Environmental Protection Agency to conduct independent tests and studies that can assist and verify monitoring assets already in the area. There should be transparency, and early and full disclosure of any findings to all impacted parties.
- Coordinate with the site contractor (Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC) to analyze exposure to workers on site and address potential health concerns. Status reports regarding health, radiation and exposure should also be provided

to the public so there is a clear understanding of what is actually occurring at the site.

- Ensure that other DOE sites understand the impact of the incident on facility operation and DOE's Environmental Management program.
- Work with the New Mexico Environment Department to explore the possibility of extended temporary storage above ground at WIPP beyond changes recently implemented.
- Examine other alternatives for TRU waste management in light of existing cleanup commitments.

In DOE's response, Dave Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, said, "We agree that open and clear communications are essential to keep local officials, workers and interested members of the public regularly informed on recovery activities." He additionally described DOE's outreach efforts, including a web page with daily updates and participation in weekly town hall meetings co-hosted by Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway.

The complete DOE letter is available on page 16.

ECA's March 7 letter can be viewed [here](#).

ECA TO RELEASE UPDATED *COMMUNITY HANDBOOK ON NUCLEAR ENERGY*

This month, the Energy Communities Alliance will release an update of *A Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future*. Written from the perspective of local governments, the Handbook considers the myriad issues related to nuclear energy production and nuclear waste management, and the risks and opportunities for communities as future nuclear policies are developed. ECA will provide notice when the Handbook is available.

The Handbook, originally published in 2012, presents concepts, terminology, benefits and challenges that local governments should understand as they consider hosting nuclear facilities. The updated version includes discussion of a number of efforts that developed over the past two years to prioritize and address nuclear waste management:

- The final report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future;
- Proposals for a consent-based siting process;
- The Department of Energy's (DOE) *Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste*
- The Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2013

In addition, DOE has continued to pursue new nuclear reactor technologies, providing support through research, development and demonstration activities. The revised Handbook outlines some of these promising technologies and how work on them is progressing for communities that may be interested in future demonstration projects. These include:

- Small modular reactors (SMR)
- High-temperature, gas-cooled reactors
- Liquid metal and gas-cooled fast reactors
- Improved fuel technologies

As the debate regarding nuclear energy and nuclear waste policies continues, ECA notes several new questions have evolved:

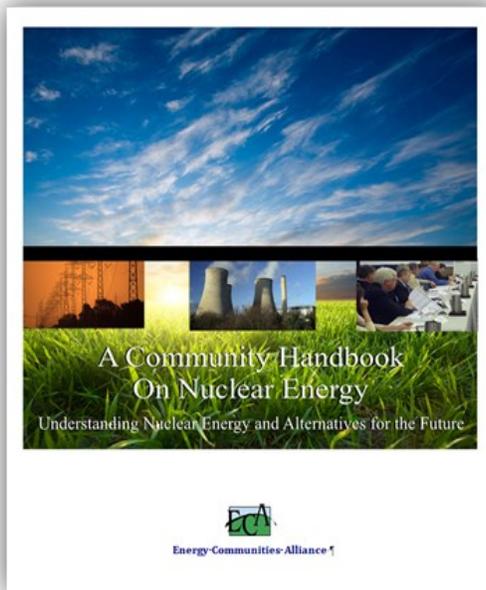
1. Why would a community want to host a new facility?
2. What is the role of local government in communities that become host to interim storage or permanent waste management?
3. What is the role of local government in supporting, manufacturing or utilizing nuclear technologies like SMRs?
4. What incentives exist for hosting a new nuclear facility?

The revised Handbook is updated to help communities address these questions. ECA

provides recommendations for local governments at the end of each chapter, and highlights new opportunities that local governments have to engage with state and federal decision-makers to develop, support and implement plans for the future of nuclear energy.

A Community Handbook on Nuclear Energy: Understanding Nuclear Energy and Alternatives for the Future was prepared by ECA with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy. To request hardcopies, please contact Sharon Worley at

Sharon.worley@energyca.org.



HOUSE PANEL PASSES FY15 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

The House Armed Services Committee approved its version of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4435), which authorizes funding and sets policy for DOE national security programs, on May 8.

Manhattan Project National Park Included

The bill includes language that would establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, including facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington.

See page 1 for additional details on the section.

\$120M in MOX Funding Authority Removed Via Amendment—and Transferred to Air Force Procurement

Prior to adopting the bill, the House Armed Services Committee considered an amendment to decrease funding authority for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility by \$120 million and increase funding authority for the Air Force by the same amount to procure eight additional MQ-9 Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles. This is the first time in several years that authorizers moved authorization from DOE to DOD. Every ECA community should

watch this issue. If it happens to one site, it can happen to others.

Additional Legislative Provisions and Report Language

Public-Private Partnerships

The committee report “directs the Administrator for Nuclear Security to submit a plan... describing at least two public-private partnerships the Administrator will seek to enter into to build modern, non-nuclear facilities for the nuclear security enterprise... This plan should discuss the benefits, risks, costs and cost savings over the life of the facility, timelines, and effects on the deferred maintenance backlog associated with carrying out the projects as compared to a program plan that does not carry out the projects.”

Report Language Expressing Concern for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

“The committee remains concerned about the incidents and contamination that occurred at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, related to the February 2014 radiological release and underground fire,

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FY 2015 Defense Environmental Cleanup Site Funding Table

Program	FY15 Request	FY15 HASC Authorized	FY14 Omnibus Appropriations
Hanford	\$848.071M	Same	\$941M
Idaho National Laboratory	\$367.203M	Same	\$387M
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	\$1.366M	Same	<i>Non-LANL NNSA Sites (LLNL, Nevada and Sandia) received a total of \$89.887M</i>
Nevada NNSA Site	\$64.851M	Same	<i>Non-LANL NNSA Sites (LLNL, Nevada and Sandia) received a total of \$89.887M</i>
Sandi National Laboratories	\$2.801M	Same	<i>Non-LANL NNSA Sites (LLNL, Nevada and Sandia) received a total of \$89.887M</i>
Los Alamos National Laboratory	\$196.017M	Same	\$224.789M
Oak Ridge Reservation	\$206.883M	Same	\$215M
Office of River Protection	\$1.235B	Same	\$1.21B
Savannah River Site	\$1.1501B	Same	\$1.134B
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	\$216.08M	Same	\$216.193M

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House Panel Passes FY15 National Defense Authorization

and has been closely monitoring these events. The committee notes that WIPP remains closed to new waste shipments as various investigations and reviews continue to identify the source of the contamination, the risk of additional events, and potential options to address this issue. Those reviews that have concluded have recommended a variety of actions to improve operations, oversight, and emergency response at WIPP and across the Department of Energy complex. The committee expects the Department of Energy to seriously consider all such recommendations and take robust action to prevent a reoccurrence of either incident.”

Report Language on DOE/NNSA Reorganization and Reform

“In the past year, the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) have continued to make organizational changes intended to more effectively and efficiently manage programs (particularly large nuclear infrastructure projects) and address chronic problems related to security, safety, duplicative and inconsistent inspections and policies, and confused lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability. These reorganization efforts are expected to continue into fiscal year 2015 and beyond.

The committee continues to be skeptical that reorganization efforts will lead to the fundamental and lasting change required to remedy the myriad problems with governance, management, and oversight of the nuclear security enterprise. The committee notes that only 2 years ago, in March 2012, NNSA created the Office of Infrastructure and Operations (NA-00), and in 2013 assigned this office responsibilities related to security inspections, security operations, and security budgets. Subsequently, in December 2013 these security functions were removed from NA-00 and distributed among several new and reformed offices under the Chief of Defense Nuclear Security, the new Department of Energy Office of Independent Enterprise Assessments, a new Departmental Security Committee, and supporting offices under the newly created Department of Energy Under Secretary for Management and Performance.

The committee understands that these shifts resulted from new senior leaders at the Department of Energy and NNSA, and recognize and appreciate that active measures are being taken to address these longstanding problems. However, past experiences at Department of Energy and NNSA have shown that reorganizations initiated by time- and attention-constrained senior leaders have had little effect on the intractable bureaucratic culture within Department of Energy and NNSA. The committee continues to be concerned with the long-term failure to

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FY 2015 Topline Accounts Funding Table

Program	FY15 Request	FY15 HASC Authorized	FY14 Omnibus Appropriations
Defense Environmental Cleanup	\$5.33B	\$4.87B (decrease is due to elimination of \$463M Uranium enrichment D&D fund contribution)	\$5B
Weapons Activities	\$8.31B	\$8.46B	\$7.781B
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	\$1.55B	\$1.56B	\$1.954B
Office of Legacy Management	\$171.98M	Same	\$176.983M

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House Panel Passes FY15 National Defense Authorization

implement meaningful and effective changes when the problems and possible solutions have been so thoroughly studied by so many groups.

On the other hand, the committee is guardedly hopeful to see Department of Energy/NNSA's security reforms include separation of security policy and security inspection functions, as well as clarification and simplification of lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability. Recommendations for these two actions have been a part of security reviews for over a decade, and the need for their implementation is urgent.

This summer, the committee expects to receive the final report of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise created by section 3166 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239). The committee encourages senior policymakers in the Administration and in Congress to keep sustained and in-depth attention on reform efforts. Strong leadership and robust actions are required now and into the foreseeable future. The committee will continue its oversight of these matters."

Facilities for Plutonium Strategy

Section 3133, "Analysis of Existing Facilities," would require the Administrator for Nuclear Security to submit a report containing analysis of using or modifying existing facilities across

the nuclear security enterprise to support the plutonium strategy.

Plutonium Pit Capacity and Infrastructure

Section 3114, "Plutonium Pit Production Capacity," would make findings and express the sense of Congress regarding support for building and maintaining a modern nuclear infrastructure to ensure plutonium pit production. The committee notes, "As a key component of a responsive nuclear infrastructure, continued delay in achieving this pit production capacity is unacceptable. The committee believes that waiting over 15 years to achieve a responsive nuclear infrastructure is too great a risk to national security."

Report Language on Nuclear Facility Infrastructure Deferred Maintenance and Risk

"Budget justification materials submitted by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) note that NNSA's deferred maintenance backlog is over \$3.5 billion and growing. The materials highlight that, of NNSA's approximately 3,800 facilities, almost 30 percent were built during the Manhattan Project era and over 50 percent are more than 40 years old.

The committee agrees with NNSA that infrastructure risk, if left unaddressed, becomes safety risk and mission risk. The committee fears that, given NNSA's numerous high-priority programs and the termination of the Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program (FIRP) in 2013, insufficient attention and funding will be applied to the deferred maintenance problem going forward."



Bulletin Ideas?

Would you like to have stories featured in the next Bulletin?

Send your ideas and photos to Allison@energyca.org

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Manhattan Project National Historical Park Included in Defense Authorization

which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy defense environmental cleanup program under this title;

- (2) to improve public understanding of the Manhattan Project and the legacy of the Manhattan Project through interpretation of the historic resources associated with the Manhattan Project;

- (3) to enhance public access to the Historical Park consistent with protection of public safety, national security, and other aspects of the mission of the Department of Energy; and

- (4) to assist the Department of Energy, Historical Park communities, historical societies, and other interested organizations and individuals in efforts to preserve and protect the historically significant resources associated with the Manhattan Project.

WIPP FIRE AND RADIOLOGICAL EVENTS UPDATE

When Will WIPP Resume Operations?

WIPP Recovery Manager Jim Blankenhorn said at a weekly WIPP update meeting that the facility could be closed for three years. This is not an officially supported position and other experts believe the facility will open sooner. It remains unknown when WIPP will resume operations.

DOE's WIPP Recovery Information Center Provides Updates on the Site's February 14 Radiological Event

Visit this [special section](#) of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant home page to learn about the latest recovery activities regarding the February 14, 2014 radiological event at WIPP. The page also includes useful background information for stakeholders from WIPP and links to outside sources. The latest news headlines include:

- Texas Facility to Temporarily Store Los Alamos Waste
- New Air Sampling Data Results
- WIPP Re-Entry Team Preps at Local Potash Mine

WIPP Weekly Updates

The City of Carlsbad and DOE's Carlsbad Field Office continue to co-host weekly town hall

meetings to discuss recovery efforts following the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's fire and radiological events in February. The meetings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. each Thursday in the council chambers of City Hall and are posted [online](#). Weekly updates on the status of WIPP and recovery efforts will be provided.

DOE Issues WIPP Radiological Release Investigation Report

DOE issued its initial accident investigation report related to the February 14 radiological release on April 24. "This report will serve as guidance for the recovery team moving forward," said, Joe Franco, DOE's Carlsbad Field Office Manager. "We understand the importance of these findings, and the community's sense of urgency for WIPP to become operational in the future. We are fully committed to pursuing this objective."

The 302-page report is available [here](#).

DNFSB Initial Assessment of the WIPP Fire and Radiological Release

On March 21, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board released its initial assessment of the WIPP fire and radiological events, including an evaluation of the on-going response.

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WIPP Fire and Radiological Events Update

See the DNFSB Assessment [here](#).

DOE Finalizes WIPP Fire Investigation Report

On March 14, the Office of Environmental Management released an accident investigation report for the February 5 underground mine fire involving a salt haul truck at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

See the Accident Investigation Report [here](#).



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EM and NNSA Leadership Changes

Mark Whitney Named EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary; Will Lead EM Until Regalbuto Confirmed



Mark Whitney

EM announced on May 8 that Mark Whitney accepted the position of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM, effective May 18.

Dave Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary, said, “Once I transition back to National Nuclear Security Administration, Mark will lead the EM organization until Monica Regalbuto is confirmed as the EM Assistant Secretary.”

Whitney has served as the Manager of EM’s Oak Ridge Office and as the acting Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.

Huizenga added, “I want to thank Jim Owendoff who has been a tremendous help to me and the EM organization not only as acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary but also in his role as EM’s senior advisor.” Jack Craig will remain the acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Huizenga said.

Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret) Sworn In as NNSA Administrator



Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz

Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret), was confirmed in his dual role as NNSA Administrator and DOE Under Secretary for Nuclear Security on April 8. Acting NNSA Administrator Bruce Held will return to his position as Associate Deputy Secretary.



Dr. Steven Croley

“Lieutenant General Klotz’s confirmation comes at a critical point for the National Nuclear Security Administration,” said Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. “His breadth of military and national security leadership experience makes him uniquely suited to lead the NNSA, fulfilling its commitments to the management and security of the nation’s nuclear weapons, nuclear nonproliferation, naval reactor programs, and nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness efforts. I thank the Senate for their attention to Lieutenant General Klotz’s nomination, and I look forward to working with him. I also thank Acting Administrator Bruce Held for his outstanding leadership of NNSA as Acting Administrator.”

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EM and NNSA Leadership Changes

Dr. Steven Croley Confirmed as DOE General Counsel

The Senate confirmed Dr. Steven Croley as DOE General Counsel on May 12. Croley previously served as Deputy White House Counsel.

“Dr. Croley brings to the Department leadership team both extensive experience representing the interests of the United States and wide-ranging interests in energy and environmental issues,” said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. “I thank the Senate for approving his nomination, and I look forward to his advice and counsel. I also thank Anne Harkavy for serving as Acting General Counsel in his stead. Her leadership has proven to be invaluable in recent months.”

Dennis Deziel Named EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget

EM announced on May 7 that Dennis Deziel has been named EM's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget. He was previously named the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget in November 2012.

Huizenga said, “More than 20 years ago, Dennis began his Federal career in EM as a Management Fellow, contributing to the creation of our program's initial Five-Year Plans and the Baseline Environmental Reports in the mid-1990s. Dennis then moved on to work as a regulator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, managing environmental cleanup and chemical programs. He has also held roles as an advisor at the White House Council on Environmental Quality and as a National Security Fellow in the U.S. Senate. Before returning to EM in 2012, Dennis managed chemical and nuclear infrastructure security programs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.”

Candice Trummell, Former ECA Member, Named EM's Director of External Affairs

EM announced on April 7 that Candice Trummell has been named EM's Director of External Affairs.



Candice Trummell

Huizenga said, “Candice has an extensive background in media relations, intergovernmental affairs and other stakeholder communications, she has been the Acting Director since the departure of Paul Seidler. Previously, Candice has served as the EM Chief of Staff, and in various public relations and intergovernmental affairs positions within EM and at the field office for the former Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Candice also has private sector experience managing a strategic communications and issue management firm and has served as a local elected official in her capacity as a Nye County Commissioner in Nevada.”

Seth Kirshenberg, Executive Director of ECA, said “EM is lucky to have Candice as the Director of External Affairs. She has worked tirelessly for DOE in EM and within the Secretary's office. Further, as a former County Commissioner and ECA member, she understands the Department from all sides.”

Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga Comments on Richland Operations Office Manager Matt McCormick's Retirement



Matt McCormick

Matt McCormick, manager of the Richland Operations Office, announced on May 6 that he will retire in mid-June. Acting Assistant Secretary Huizenga said McCormick has contributed significantly to cleanup at Hanford and listed the following accomplishments:

- Led the development and implementation of the 2015 vision at Hanford, which has helped show demonstrable and meaningful progress in cleanup;
- Managed \$1.6 billion in Recovery Act funding, which provided unprecedented cleanup progress on the Hanford Site from the River Corridor to the Central Plateau;
- Shipped over four metric tons of plutonium off site in over 2000 containers;
- Demolished the Plutonium Finishing Plant vault buildings, tank storage building and incinerator building;

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EM and NNSA Leadership Changes

- Finalized Tri-Party negotiations and gained approval from the regulators on Hanford's groundwater strategy;
- Installed four new pump and treat facilities leading to the current treatment capacity of over 150 million gallons a month;
- Negotiated the successful startup of the retrieval, processing and shipment (to WIPP) of underground stored transuranic waste after over 30 years of storage with the State of Washington;
- Obtained key Records of Decisions under the CERCLA process to progress Hanford cleanup such as groundwater, PFP, U canyon, and the River Corridor; and
- Developed, socialized and implemented Central Plateau Cleanup Strategy (outer area, inner area, and groundwater) that is reflected in the Tri Party Agreement and the Hanford Cleanup Completion Framework.

MONIZ ANNOUNCES PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS TO “ENHANCE DOE HEALTH, SAFETY, SECURITY AND INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS FUNCTIONS”



Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy

DOE announced on March 28 the following appointments to support DOE health, safety, security and independent assessments functions. Secretary Moniz and Deputy Secretary Poneman said, “As you know, we are designating Chief Security Officers who will

report to each of the three Under Secretaries - creating clearer lines of responsibility, authority, and accountability within the Department. We are pleased to report that the following individuals have been named to these positions:”

Michael Lempke will serve as Acting Chief Security Officer for NNSA, and Acting Chief of Defense Nuclear Security. Moniz and Poneman said, Mr. Lempke “brings seasoned leadership to this position” and has “worked closely with Acting NNSA Administrator Bruce Held to streamline and strengthen NNSA security and reporting authorities.”

Brig. Gen. Jimmy McMillian (Ret.) will serve as Chief Security Officer for the Under Secretary for Management and Performance. Moniz and Poneman added, “This is in addition to his role as the Director, Office of Safeguards, Security and Emergency Management within Environmental Management.”

Dennis Miotla will serve as Acting Chief Security Officer for the Under Secretary for Science and Energy, in addition to his role as Chief Operating Officer and acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy. “With more than 20 years of experience in senior-level management positions in the Department, both at headquarters and in the field, Mr. Miotla offers integration of security into the achievement of Departmental missions,” Moniz and Poneman said.

The Chief Security Officers will also lead a new Security Committee “to develop effective and unified security strategies and policies across the Department.”

Glenn Podonsky will lead a new Office of Independent Enterprise Assessments, “serving as an important check-and-balance and meeting our responsibilities as a self-regulating entity.”

Matt Moury will serve as Acting Associate Under Secretary for Environment, Health, Safety and Security to lead the transition as the Department's safety, security, and health policy and support functions are aligned with the Under Secretary for Management and Performance. Steve Kirchhoff, Director of the HSS Office of Resource Management, will support this effort.

DOE RELEASES 2014–2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

DOE released its 2014–2018 strategic plan in April, which “provides a roadmap for our work, highlights our major priorities for the next few years, and will be reflected in individual program plans.”

Regarding the Office of Environmental Management’s cleanup mission, the Secretary said, “We will address the legal and moral imperative of cleaning up legacy nuclear waste to protect human health and the environment. Great progress has been made, but significant technical challenges remain. We will continue to utilize an integrated, systematic, and comprehensive process to address these issues.”

“Strategic” and “Agency Priority” goals identified in the report include:

- Strengthen key science, technology, and engineering capabilities and modernize the national security infrastructure
- Reduce global nuclear security threats
- Increase the focus on efficient and effective management across the DOE enterprise and improve performance in the areas of environmental cleanup, construction project management, and cybersecurity.
- Continue cleanup of radioactive and chemical waste resulting from the Manhattan Project and Cold War activities
- Manage assets in a sustainable manner that supports the DOE mission

Specific “Performance” goals include:

- Retrieve waste from 11 tanks at Hanford Site, Idaho National Laboratory and Savannah River Site, and close a total of 2 tanks at Savannah River Site by FY 2016
- Remove more than 21,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste from site inventories in accordance with respective regulatory agreements by the end of FY 2016
- Identify the mission and core capability associated with all real property assets and assess the asset utilization for efficiency and efficacy by FY 2015
- Dispose of 10 federal excess land properties by FY 2016
- Eliminate 1,775,000 square feet of excess buildings and infrastructure through demolition or beneficial reuse by the end of FY 2016
- Establish a list of real property available for reuse or disposal to non-federal entities by the end of FY 2015
- Increase legacy site responsibility from 89 to 109 sites by FY 2016 (sites closed by DOE and sites remediated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 Title II licensees)

The plan is available [here](#).

SENATE PANEL CONSIDERS REGALBUTO AS EM-1—REGALBUTO SAYS WIPP NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on May 14 to consider the nomination of Dr. Monica C. Regalbuto to be EM-1, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management.

During the hearing, Regalbuto said, if confirmed, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant would be her top priority. “This facility is incredibly necessary,” she said. “It is the only place that we can bring our

waste, so it has an impact across the whole country, so that has to be number one priority.”

In prepared remarks, Regalbuto said, “One of the Nation’s biggest challenges remains to ensure the public that the government is able to fulfill its responsibility regarding the timely handling and cleanup of the nuclear waste originated from both its defense and civilian programs.”

The archived webcast can be viewed [here](#).

ANALYSIS OF SURPLUS WEAPON-GRADE PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION OPTIONS

The Plutonium Disposition Working Group issued a report, “Analysis of Surplus Weapon-Grade Plutonium Disposition Options,” in April.

“The Administration remains firmly committed to disposing of surplus weapon-grade plutonium. However, through an analysis of lifecycle costs, it has become apparent that disposing of plutonium as MOX fuel will be significantly more expensive than anticipated. Given a lifecycle cost estimate for the program of approximately \$30 billion or more and a challenging budget environment, the current MOX approach must be critically examined alongside costs of other potential options to complete the plutonium disposition mission,” NNSA announced in a press release.

The report “documents DOE’s assessment of the disposition strategies and provides the foundation for further analysis and validation, including additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review if necessary, that will enable a decision on the disposition of surplus weapon-grade plutonium.”

The report is available [here](#).

MOUND REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP MAY 20-21

An Announcement from the Office of Legacy Management

You are invited to the Mound Reindustrialization Workshop at the Mound Advanced Technology Center in Miamisburg. A full day of presentations will take place May 20 and a half-day tour of the Mound site will be offered on May 21.

The challenges of reindustrialization will be explored through topics such as the Energy Park and redevelopment at Mound, updates to asset revitalization initiatives, the Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 770 final rule, and other topics pertaining to redevelopment.

Mound Development Corporation also invites you to attend a dinner event on May 20 to celebrate their accomplishments and usher in their marketing strategies for the future.

For more information about the workshop, please contact Gwen Hooten by e-mail at gwen.hooten@lm.doe.gov, or by phone at (720) 880-4349.



Please visit our website:
<http://www.energyca.org>
 to be added to our mailing list

DOE IG REPORT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S MANAGEMENT OF UNNEEDED REAL ESTATE

The DOE Inspector General (DOE IG) released an audit report on April 14, "Department of Energy's Management of Unneeded Real Estate." DOE set a target of \$375 million in cost avoidance from fiscal years 2010–2012, from disposal of facilities and space management initiatives, in response to the June 2010 Presidential Memorandum, *Disposing of Unneeded Real Estate* and associated Office of management and Budget implementation guidance.

"Due to the importance of the cost savings measures," the DOE IG "initiated this audit to determine whether the Department managed the disposition of Department-owned real estate properties effectively and in accordance with the Government-wide initiative to reduce the number of excess properties."

DOE reported it achieved \$580 million in cost avoidance during the period, exceeding the goal. The DOE IG audit found that "\$412 million in reported cost avoidance was associated with the cessation of activities at the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository (Yucca Mountain)." Only \$168 million of the cost avoidance had been achieved through demolition or sale of excess facilities. "We believe the Yucca Mountain cost avoidance, while generally associated with OMB

guidance, only provided a temporary savings to the Government as the requirement for the Department to safely dispose of nuclear waste material has not been suspended," the audit said.

"The Department conveyed to us the challenges that it has continually faced limit its ability to dispose of unneeded facilities. Department officials noted that frequently, these challenges are outside their control and include factors such as funding constraints, historical preservation requirements, and a lengthy disposition/excess process."

Additionally, the DOE IG "noted a number of National Nuclear Security Administration facilities in poor condition that were categorized as excess or in shutdown mode without definitive plans for Deactivation and Decommissioning activities. The degradation within these facilities ranged from failures in critical structural components to high levels of contamination. Additionally, several of these facilities posed significant health and safety risks to Department employees and/or the public. We plan to conduct additional work related to this issue and will report on the results of this work in a separate report."

The report is available [here](#).

DOE IG REPORT: LONG-TERM STORAGE OF CESIUM AND STRONTIUM AT THE HANFORD SITE

The DOE Inspector General (DOE IG) issued an audit report on March 26, "Long-Term Storage of Cesium and Strontium at the Hanford Site." According to the report, "One of the many significant cleanup challenges faced by [DOE] is the ongoing management of stored cesium and strontium capsules at the Hanford Site's Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF)."

Action initiated by the Richland Operations Office to address this challenge "appears prudent" to the DOE IG, "in that continued storage of the capsules in WESF is not cost effective and may pose additional risks to the environment associated with beyond design threats at the Hanford Site."

The report makes no formal recommendations because "we acknowledge the budgetary challenges

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DOE IG Report: Long-Term Storage of Cesium and Strontium at the Hanford Site

facing the Department, and its impact on moving the capsules into dry storage.” However, “we

suggest that the Manager, Richland Operations Office, expeditiously proceed with its plans to pursue a dry storage alternative to support transfer of the capsules out of WESF at the earliest possible timeframe.”

The report is available [here](#).

GAO REPORT: TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS FOR THE URANIUM PROCESSING FACILITY

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on April 18, “Nuclear Weapons: Technology Development Efforts for the Uranium Processing Facility.” GAO conducted the study in response to a Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requirement for GAO to assess the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

GAO identified the following risks associated with using new technologies in the UPF:

- Technology integration
- Technology development
- Technology transition
- Performance assurance
- Funding

The report is available [here](#).

DOE TRANSFERS 25 ACRES TO THE COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION OF EAST TENNESSEE

DOE transferred 25 acres of land to the Community Reuse Organization East Tennessee (CROET) for private sector use on May 14. This is the 12th property transferred to CROET. Eight of those transferred have been sold or optioned to private industry, which DOE says has provided an increase of more than \$60,000 in annual tax revenue for the City of Oak Ridge.

Special guests in attendance at the signing ceremony included Congressman Chuck Fleischmann; David Klaus, DOE Deputy Undersecretary for Management and Performance; and Mark Whitney, Manager of EM’s Oak Ridge Office (Whitney became Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM on May 18).

Congressman Fleischmann said, “The reindustrialization program in Oak Ridge has not

only been an economic development catalyst for the region, it is saving tax payers millions of dollars as the federal government transfers underutilized assets to the private sector.”



Signing event with Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, OREM Manager Mark Whitney, CROET CEO Lawrence Young, and David Klaus, DOE’s Deputy Undersecretary for Management and Performance

Lawrence Young, president and CEO of CROET, said, “The transformation that has taken place at ETTP over the last two decades is astounding, and it shows what commitment and collaboration can accomplish...”

When you look at the two reuse initiatives at [the East Tennessee Technology Park], Oak Ridge has benefitted by more than \$100 million worth of capital investment and more than 1,000 jobs.”

The DOE press release is available [here](#).

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

May 5, 2014

Mr. Tom Beehan
Energy Communities Alliance Chair
1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mayor Beehan:

Thank you for your March 7 letter to Secretary Moniz regarding recent events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). We appreciate the Energy Communities Alliance's support of WIPP and the recommendations listed in your letter.

The health and welfare of the WIPP workforce and members of the public are DOE's top priority. We agree that open and clear communications are essential to keep local officials, workers, and interested members of the public regularly informed on recovery activities. DOE has established a web page (see <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>) where daily updates are posted. We are actively participating in weekly town hall meetings co-hosted by Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway and the manager of DOE's Carlsbad Field Office. We continue to brief local and national stakeholders as new information becomes available.

I am happy to provide a summary of our current activities, which I believe are responsive to all of your recommendations. DOE is working with Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP), the WIPP management and operating contractor, on measures to ensure all workers requesting health monitoring are tested. The results of bioassay testing to date suggest that employees who were at WIPP during the radiological release on February 14 received extremely low exposure levels and are unlikely to experience any health effects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has conducted independent analyses of some of the bioassay samples and has confirmed DOE's results. Nevertheless, we will continue to review these results and monitor the health of the individuals involved in the testing effort.

Environmental monitoring and sampling results continue to indicate radiation levels are consistent with the background levels normal in WIPP's vicinity. At these levels, no harm to workers, the public, or the environment is expected. The results of DOE's monitoring and sampling have been consistent with environmental monitoring and sampling results collected and reported by the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, an independent environmental monitoring laboratory. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) also conducted independent environmental testing. We continue to have daily discussions with NMED and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep them informed of current activities and share sampling results. DOE sampling results are posted on the WIPP web site as the results become



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available. In addition, we are in discussions with the EPA sampling team and are supporting EPA's deployment of additional air monitors.

On February 26, the Carlsbad Field Office submitted a letter to NMED requesting an extension time during which waste received at WIPP can be stored. On February 27 NMED issued an Administrative Order granting the request and allowing additional time for such waste to be stored on-site.

As you know, an accident investigation team was already at WIPP investigating the February 5 fire event when the February 14 airborne radiological release occurred. The accident investigation report from the fire event has been posted and shared with the public. Some members of the fire investigation team are also members of the team investigating the radiological incident. The radiological event team membership includes radiation control experts. The investigation team is working as expeditiously as possible to determine the cause of the radiological release.

DOE and NWP are working on recovery activities. DOE has diverted resources from other DOE sites to WIPP in order to facilitate the recovery effort. These resources include radiological control experts and equipment. After careful planning, workers have re-entered the underground and are establishing a work area to support the investigation and the determination of the cause of the radiological release, as well as the ongoing recovery activities. DOE will resume waste disposal operations at WIPP only after addressing the findings and recommendations from both of the accident investigation teams.

Although the duration of the WIPP outage is unknown at this time, DOE is evaluating the potential operational and regulatory impacts to other DOE sites that ship or anticipated shipping waste to WIPP for disposal. Nevertheless, activities to safely remediate, process, characterize and certify transuranic waste at DOE sites are continuing largely without impact. DOE is temporarily staging TRU waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory's 3706 project at a commercial site and is continuing to evaluate potential alternatives for temporary staging of TRU wastes.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Alice Madden, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,



David Huizenga
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

2014 Congressional Calendar

January

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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 House and Senate in Session

 Senate in Session Only

 House in Session Only

 Federal Holiday



Please Note: Congressional schedule is subject to change

2014 Calendar of Events



May 20–21	Mound Revitalization Workshop, Miamisburg Ohio (see story on page 13 for more information)
May 20	Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces marks up its portion of the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (closed to the public)
May 20	Congressional Nuclear Cleanup Caucus meeting on the Office of River Protection, Washington; Washington, D.C. (more information here)
May 21	Congressional Nuclear Cleanup Caucus meeting on the Savannah River Site, South Carolina; Washington, D.C. (more information at here)
May 21	Senate Armed Services Committee begins marking up the full Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (closed to the public)
May 23–27	House recess
May 24–June 1	Senate recess
May 31–June 8	House recess
June (anticipated)	House action on the FY15 Energy-Water Appropriations Bill
June (anticipated)	Senate vote on the nomination of Madelyn Creedon to be Principal Deputy Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration



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