

May 2015

# ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



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## ECA SUPPORTS PRIORITIZING SEPARATE DEFENSE WASTE REPOSITORY



On May 15, ECA responded to the leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to express the support of energy communities for a separate repository for defense waste. ECA’s letter came one month after a [letter](#) by Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) expressed concern regarding the Administration’s decision to pursue a separate site for military waste in late March. Upton and Pallone argued that “[t]his latest determination is a significant change from the bipartisan, 30 year nuclear waste management policy in which both

defense waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel are jointly disposed in a permanent repository located at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.”

While ECA agrees with the concerns outlined in the Committee’s questions, “[w]e believe any movement on this issue can be beneficial,” after years of political stalemate. ECA sees advantages in prioritizing defense waste which, without a geologic repository could remain “orphaned” in communities that never planned to be long-term storage sites.

The ECA letter can be found on page 13.

## DR. PETE LYONS TO RETIRE AT THE END OF JUNE



Pete Lyons

On May 26, Secretary Ernest Moniz and Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall wrote to DOE employees announcing the retirement of Dr. Pete Lyons at the end of June. Lyons has served as the Assistant Secretary in the Office of Nuclear Energy since April 2011. Dr.

Lyons retires after a 46 year career in government service and the national laboratory system. Dr. Lyons has influenced ECA since its inception in 1992. He has spoken at over 20 ECA meetings, collaborated on legislation that protects communities adjacent to DOE sites, influenced research and help improve strengths of national labs, and most importantly has been a friend of

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## Executive Committee



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## ECA HOSTS PEER EXCHANGE ON ADVANCING NUCLEAR PRIORITIES

On May 18 and 19, ECA members, officials from the DOE's Offices of Nuclear Energy and Environmental Management, industry representatives, state regulators, DOE contractors, and other local government officials met in Aiken, South Carolina, for the Peer Exchange on Advancing Nuclear Energy Priorities. Meeting discussions focused on nuclear policies and technologies that are priorities for the next two years and how local governments can create momentum around nuclear waste issues and in support of new nuclear development.

On the first day meeting, participants were able to tour either the Savannah River Site or Southern Nuclear's Plant Vogtle to see the construction of Units 3 and 4 - the first new nuclear plants to be built in the United States in 30 years.

The plenary discussion took place over two days with presentations by Dr. Pete Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, ECA members, AECOM, Waste Control Specialists, the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, X-energy and the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL).

The meeting focused on a number of key issues:

- Defining a consent-based siting process;
- Potential for the separate disposal of defense high-level waste from commercial spent nuclear fuel;
- Alternative waste disposal options such as reclassifying waste based on composition rather than origin;
- Nuclear workforce development initiatives;
- Understanding advanced nuclear technologies;
- Communities working with national laboratories.

Dr. Pete Lyons opened the meeting by outlining his office's current priorities: addressing challenges to the current U.S. nuclear fleet, ensuring the value of nuclear as a low carbon energy resource, small

modular and advanced reactors, and laying the groundwork for interim storage and transportation of nuclear waste. Dr. Lyons also laid out the case for DOE's decision to consider a defense-only repository. When asked about consent-based siting and whether funding will be made available for communities potentially interested in hosting an interim storage facility, Dr. Lyons replied that it is part of DOE's thinking and would be addressed "not too far in the future."

Doug McCuiston, Chief Operating Officer of X-energy, outlined efforts in the private sector to develop advanced nuclear technologies like the Pebble Bed High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor. Advanced nuclear technologies are safe, small-scale, compact, versatile, and able to respond in real-time to fluctuating grid demands. Along with small nuclear reactors DOE is working to provide support for advanced technologies as the future of nuclear energy.

Next, Dr. Susan Winsor, the President of Aiken Technical College, provided an update on the how the city, state, and region are looking to address an aging workforce and nuclear workforce demand expected to increase over time. She, along with Nora Swanson, Southern Nuclear's Workforce Development Coordinator, addressed efforts underway to implement education and training programs, address misconceptions about the industry, and increase diversity.

On issues regarding nuclear waste storage and disposal issues, discussions focused on how to define "consent-based" decision-making as well as options that may facilitate waste management. Jack Volpato, Treasurer of the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance, spoke about their proposal with Holtec to establish an underground consolidated interim storage facility in New Mexico near the WIPP site. In his presentation, Volpato underscored the importance of education as the first step to gaining

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# Legislative Update

Congress left town shortly before Memorial Day for a one week break after a packed month. In addition to the normal appropriations and authorizations ritual, Congress considered reauthorizing Patriot Act provisions, granting the President fast-track authority to negotiate trade deals, temporarily extended authorization for the Highway Trust Fund, and carried on with the normal politicking and legislating. We'll see just how much of this activity translates into actual law when Congress returns on June 1 for eight uninterrupted weeks of work before their August recess.

## House Update

Early this month, Congress passed a compromise budget agreement laying out the various funding levels used by the Appropriations Committees when drafting their spending bills. The House passed its Energy and Water (E&W) spending bill, H.R. 2028, on May 1.

The House's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, H.R. 1735, passed on May 15 by a vote of 269-151 with 12 not voting. The bill is attracting more opposition than normal because of Democratic opposition to the size of the contingency war funding account. It has been authorized at \$89.2 billion, more than \$38 billion higher than the President's request. Democrats in Congress and the White House are hoping to force Republican leadership to negotiate another budget agreement, dubbed Ryan-Murray II.

The original Ryan-Murray agreement was a two-year bipartisan compromise that came about in late 2013. The agreements provided sequester relief for both defense and domestic spending while reducing the deficit with the goal of slowing the growth of debt. Thus far, GOP appropriations bills have adhered to sequester level caps on domestic

spending but have found ways of bypassing those caps for defense spending.

## Senate Energy and Water Development Bill Passed by Committee

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed their version of the E&W spending bill on May 21 by a vote of 26-4. The \$35.4 billion measure supports DOE programs, including nuclear security, energy

research and development, and environmental cleanup. According to a Committee [press release](#), the bill represents a \$1.2 billion increase over FY2015 spending but is \$668 million below the President's request.

This appropriations bill is forward-looking in its approach to responsibly providing for our national nuclear security, waterways management, flood control, and energy security despite limited resources, "said Appropriations Chair Thad Cochran (R-MS).

\$12.3 billion is provided for nuclear security, \$856 million over FY2015 spending, including \$8.9 billion for weapons activities. A full \$6.038 billion is provided for environmental management activities, \$167 million above last year's enacted spending levels. That figure includes \$5.2 billion for defense environmental cleanup. A full break down of funding can be found on page 10.

Democrats largely supported the spending bill, but still want to find a way to move beyond the sequester limits put in place by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

"I support this bill insofar as it works within the current budget caps. However, it reveals the serious flaws of sequestration and budgeting under the Budget Control Act and underscores once again the

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## **ECA HOSTS PEER EXCHANGE ON ADVANCING NUCLEAR PRIORITIES**

consent noting, “consent has to start in your backyard.”

Judge Richard Dolgener from Andrews County, TX, and Betsy Madru from Waste Control Specialists, discussed WCS’ consolidated interim storage proposal, outlining what has been learned from the siting and operation of the WCS low-level disposal facility already there, and how that will help them as they pursue licensing of their private interim storage site.

In addition to private sector proposals to offer waste management solutions, participants also considered potential benefits of reclassifying nuclear waste based on composition rather than origin. This could allow alternative disposal paths for waste that is waiting to be disposed of in a geologic repository despite the fact that, decaying significantly overtime, no longer meets the

categorical definition of high-level waste. Communities in attendance expressed support for pursuing the idea. Communities also supported DOE consideration of a defense-only geologic repository, agreeing that efforts should be pursued parallel to the ongoing endeavor to open Yucca Mountain and siting a pilot consolidated interim storage facility.

The final session of the meeting was led by Idaho Falls, Mayor Rebecca Casper, alongside Sharon Marra from Savannah River National Laboratory, who spoke of how national laboratories need cities and communities that want to be good partners. Mayor Casper outlined where communities and labs can collaborate, citing city planning and infrastructure, emergency planning and response, R&D, education, and advocacy. Ms. Marra added that efforts are also underway to foster communication among the labs to share information on how communities and labs are working together successfully.

**ECA Peer Exchange:  
Implementation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park  
Los Alamos County, New Mexico  
July 16-17, 2015**

ECA’s Peer Exchange on Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park will focus on the efforts of the Federal Government and communities of Los Alamos, NM, Oak Ridge, TN, and Hanford, WA to ensure this new national park comes to fruition. Local elected officials and administrators from the three sites will be joined by officials from the Department of Energy, National Parks Service, local economic development organizations, and librarians and historical preservationists to address issues including sharing the history of Manhattan Project communities, the economics of heritage tourism, and funding and standing up the Park.

For more information, please contact  
Devon Hill at  
[devon@energyca.org](mailto:devon@energyca.org).

<b>Department of Energy FY 2016 Budget*</b>				
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2015 Enacted (\$)</b>	<b>FY 2016 Request (\$)</b>	<b>House FY 2016 Bill (\$)</b>	<b>Senate FY 2016 Bill (\$)</b>
<b>Department of Energy</b>	27,916,797,000	30,527,136,000	29,012,069,000	29,303,173,000
<b>Weapons Activities</b>	8,186,657,000	8,846,948,000	8,713,000,000	8,882,364,000
<b>Total NNSA Funding</b>	11,407,295,000	12,565,400,000	12,329,000,000	12,263,276,000
<b>Defense Environmental Cleanup</b>	5,000,000,000	5,055,550,000	5,055,550,000	5,180,000,000
<b>Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup</b>	246,000,000	220,185,000	229,193,000	244,000,000
<b>Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund</b>	625,000,000	542,289,000	625,000,000	614,000,000
<b>Total EM Funding</b>	5,861,017,000	5,818,024,000	5,909,743,000	6,038,000,000
<b>Carlsbad/WIPP</b>	320,000,000	243,318,000	285,584,000	243,318,000
<b>Hanford/Richland</b>	941,000,000	843,837,000	922,711,000	922,590,000
<b>Idaho National Laboratory</b>	380,203,000	360,783,000	390,783,000	360,783,000
<b>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</b>	1,366,000	1,366,000	1,366,000	1,366,000
<b>Los Alamos National Laboratory</b>	185,000,000	188,625,000	180,000,000	188,625,000
<b>Oak Ridge Reservation</b>	223,050,000	177,353,000	197,953,000	223,050,000
<b>Office of River Protection</b>	1,212,000,000	1,414,000,000	1,268,000,000	1,414,000,000
<b>Nevada NNSA Site</b>	64,851,000	62,385,000	62,385,000	62,385,000
<b>Paducah</b>	207,215,000	168,652,000	193,652,000	199,925,000
<b>Portsmouth</b>	214,024,000	165,417,000	213,417,000	165,417,000
<b>Sandia National Laboratory</b>	2,801,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
<b>Savannah River Site</b>	1,121,307,000	1,208,421,000	1,191,543,000	1,208,421,000
<b>Nuclear Energy</b>	833,500,000	907,574,000	936,161,000	950,161,000
<b>Waste Disposal (Yucca)</b>	---	---	150,000,000	---
<b>Legacy Management</b>	171,980,000	167,180,000	167,180,000	167,180,000

\*Figures in these charts are based on figures reported by the Office of Budget and Management, Congressional Budget Office, and Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Any discrepancies are based on differences in accounting methods.

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## **Dr. Pete Lyons to Retire at the End of June**

ECA and our communities. We will miss him in this role but we look forward to continuing to work with Pete. A goodbye from DOE leadership follows:

Dear Colleagues:

It is with sincere gratitude that we announce that after 46 years of service to the government and national laboratory system, Assistant Secretary Pete Lyons will retire at the end of June. Pete has been a tremendous public servant throughout his stellar career, and all who have had the privilege of working with and getting to know him through these decades understand that he has been not only a dedicated and accomplished scientist and leader of the highest order, but also one of the most decent and kind individuals one will meet in government service. We will miss him.

Dr. Lyons first joined the Department as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Nuclear Energy in November 2009 and was later confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy on April 14, 2011. Under Dr. Lyons' leadership, the Office has made great strides in incorporating modeling and simulation into all programs through the Nuclear Energy Advanced Modeling and Simulation program and the Nuclear Energy Innovation Hub. He focused on management of used fuel by contributing to the development of the Administration's Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste. In addition, the Office of Nuclear Energy established the Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support program for a new generation of safe, reliable, low-carbon nuclear energy technology. Pete also championed the Nuclear Energy University Program, which has successfully supported U.S. universities in preparing the next generation of nuclear energy leaders.

Prior to joining DOE, Dr. Lyons served as a Commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from January 25, 2005 until his term ended on June 30, 2009. At the NRC, Dr. Lyons focused on the safety of operating reactors and emphasized active and forward-looking research

programs to support sound regulatory decisions, address current issues and anticipate future ones. Before becoming a Commissioner, Dr. Lyons served as Science Advisor on the staff of U.S. Senator Pete Domenici and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources where he focused on military and civilian uses of nuclear technology from 1997 to 2005. From 1969 to 1996, Dr. Lyons worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he served as Director for Industrial Partnerships, Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Environment, and Deputy Associate Director-Defense Research and Applications. While at Los Alamos, he spent over a decade supporting nuclear test diagnostics.

Dr. Lyons has published more than 100 technical papers, holds three patents related to fiber optics and plasma diagnostics, and served as chairman of the NATO Nuclear Effects Task Group for five years. He received his doctorate in nuclear astrophysics from the California Institute of Technology in 1969 and earned his undergraduate degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Arizona in 1964. Dr. Lyons is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, a Fellow of the American Physical Society, and was elected to 16 years on the Los Alamos School Board.

John Kotek, who joined the Office of Nuclear Energy as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in January of this year, will become the Acting Assistant Secretary upon Pete's Departure. John has more than 25 years of experience in the nuclear energy field and has a long history of working in the Department on nuclear issues. John has served in many DOE positions, including Deputy Manager of the Idaho Site Office and also served as the Staff Director to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

Please join us in congratulating Pete on a very successful career and offering best wishes for a well-deserved retirement! Many thanks for your lifetime commitment to the field of nuclear science.

Sincerely,

Secretary Moniz and Deputy Secretary Sherwood-Randall

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## Legislative Update

need to balance our defense and non-defense priorities. This bill provides robust funding for nuclear weapons modernization and environmental cleanup, vital programs that deserve to be funded. At the same time, water infrastructure, drought relief, basic scientific research and energy technology development programs are left behind,” Sen. Dianne Feinstein, E&W Subcommittee Ranking Member said in a [statement](#).

The bill may be considered by the full Senate in June.

### *Senate Moving on NDAA*

The Senate Armed Services Committee passed its \$612 billion NDAA on May 14 by a vote of 22-4. Opposition was led by Committee Ranking Member Jack Reed (D-RI) who opposes the additional authorized contingency war funding that is being used to sidestep defense sequestration caps.

According to a [press release](#), the bill authorizes \$19 billion for DOE national security programs, including \$8.8 billion for weapons activities and \$5.5 billion for defense environmental management. It further requires the Energy Secretary, as part of the award fee for the operation of DOE’s defense nuclear facilities, to perform an assessment of the adequacy of its emergency preparedness, including the seniority level of Department of Energy Officials that participate in emergency preparedness exercises of the facilities. The bill also requires a plan for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to deactivate excess facilities and a 50 year plan on the DOE’s stockpile of unencumbered uranium.

Press reports indicate the Senate will consider the bill in June. For the last two years, the full Senate has not voted on the bill, an attempt by leadership at the time to prevent tough votes for members.

### *Yucca and Nuclear Waste Storage*

The House E&W bill included \$150 million to fund the nuclear waste repository at Yucca and \$25 million for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue the licensing process. The Senate spending bill, however, left out specific

## ECA Contracting Subcommittee Set to Press for Acquisition Reforms

In February, the ECA Board created a Contracting Subcommittee to press for a change of course in DOE’s acquisition process. In April, the Subcommittee developed a letter that was sent to Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney to “express concern about the direction of DOE procurement practices and how they impact communities.” Soon, the Subcommittee, chaired by Kennewick Mayor and ECA Vice Chair Steve Young, will be issuing a White Paper making recommendations for sensible DOE acquisition reform. The success and safe operation of DOE sites is of paramount importance to host communities and DOE must improve its contracting processes to ensure the sites operate effectively in a cost effective manner. DOE has shifted more risk onto contracting while diminishing community and site-input and the role of subcontractors whose vitality is critical to local economies. The reversal of this trend before nearly all of DOE EM’s and NNSA’s major prime contracts expire over the next four years would benefit the agency, host communities, and site missions.

To participate on the Subcommittee, please contact Kara Colton at [kara.colton@energyca.org](mailto:kara.colton@energyca.org)

funding for Yucca though Sen. Alexander has indicated an amendment could be introduced on the floor. While a permanent repository is left out for now, the bill does contain a pilot program allowing for consolidated nuclear waste storage and allows DOE to store nuclear waste at private facilities around the country.

According the Senate E&W [report](#), \$97 million has been appropriated for the Used Fuel Nuclear Fuel Disposition program. Of that, \$30 million is provided for financial and technical assistance associated with a consent-based siting process, “including education, technical analyses, and other support to entities considering hosting an interim

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## Legislative Update

storage facility; and for incentive payments to entities with signed agreements with eligible jurisdictions.” \$3 million is recommended to support the development of transportation systems to move spent fuel to an interim storage facility and a further \$3 million to develop disposal pathways for defense high-level radioactive waste.

### **Nuclear Fuel Cycle Legislation Hearing in July**

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on July 9 to receive testimony on nuclear fuel cycle legislation, including S. 854, the “Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2015.” That bill, championed by Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has attracted the support of other senators well known throughout the energy



and nuclear cleanup world: Committee Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Energy and Water Appropriations leaders Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR). More on the hearing and the bill can be found [here](#).

### **DOE Nominees to Receive Hearing**

Two DOE nominees will be considered by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on June 16. Jonathan Elkind will be considered for the post of Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and Monica Regalbuto will be considered for the job of Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Regalbuto was renominated for the post earlier this year after the Senate failed to act on her nomination during last Congress. We will have more coverage of her hearing next month. More information can be found [here](#).

## DOE SUPPORTS BRINGING NNSA BACK UNDER DOE LEADERSHIP

This month, the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) submitted its response to a set of recommendations laid out last fall by the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise. NNSA agreed with the vast majority of the 162-page report’s 19 main recommendations but rejected calls to replace its current award fee structure with a fixed-fee structure that would link incentives for maintenance and operations (M&O) contracts to periods of performance according to *Weapons Complex Monitor*.

NNSA still supports a tailored incentive approach to reforming its current contracting model, which would alternate between fixed and incentive fees depending on each unique mission. “NNSA must balance the incentives for the individual M&O

partner against the need to optimize the incentives for enterprise success,” the agency said.

According to Secretary Ernest Moniz’s response, DOE supports the recommendation to bring the semi-autonomous NNSA squarely back under Energy Department leadership.

“We emphatically concur and would add to this that rebuilding national leadership focus on nuclear security will also require strengthening regular communications between the Secretary and the relevant Congressional leaders on the various policy elements that make up the nuclear security mission,” Moniz said. He went on to say that the Department needs to strengthen the communication by him, Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, and NNSA Administrator Frank Klotz with Congress.

## CRS REPORT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS PIT PRODUCTION



Nuclear policy expert Jonathan Medalia has issued the third in a series of Congressional Research Service [reports](#) on nuclear weapon “pit” production. A pit is the plutonium core of a thermonuclear weapon that provides the energy to detonate the entire weapon. Though pit production has been virtually stagnant since 1989, last year Congress required the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to produce up to 80 pits per year by 2027. Los Alamos National Laboratory’s main plutonium facility, PF-4, is where the pits are to be made.

The report states that the amount of space and Material At Risk (MAR), the amount of radioactive material a worst-case accident could release, to produce up to 80 pits per year (ppy) have not been vigorously calculated. In previous reports, Medalia has raised questions about the limits of MAR and floor space. This report outlines 16 options, including making procedural and structural modifications at PF-4, to move towards the goal of producing 80 PPY. No one option alone will provide the capacity to produce 80 ppy, leaving NNSA to assemble a package of options and

Congress to evaluate whether production at that rate needs to be changed. “Any package chosen would need to optimize among such goals as margin, cost, worker safety, and throughput,” the report states.

Doubling permitted MAR may be sufficient to reach production of 80 ppy, but that option would require construction at PF-4 which could be costly and take years. Moving a nearby trailer park could reduce MAR at a lower cost than construction options. Another option involves “removing contaminated gloveboxes, setting up a production line able to make 50 ppy with one shift per day and operating it with two shifts per day, and building a module for [plutonium-238] work,” according to the report.

The report closes: “In sum, while arriving at a satisfactory package will require complex analyses, many options offer the potential to boost U.S. pit production capacity toward, if not to, the congressionally mandated capacity of 80 pits per year.”

### **NWTRB June Meeting to Focus on DOE Transportation of SNF**

On June 24, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) will meet in Golden, Colorado to review DOE activities related to transporting spent nuclear fuel. The main focus will be on DOE’s efforts to prepare for transportation of SNF from commercial reactors to a potential interim storage site and/or geologic repository. Specific discussions will be on research and development efforts and new equipment designs, with input expected from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an international nuclear utility, and stakeholder groups.

The NWTRB is an independent agency of the U.S. Federal Government. Its sole purpose is to perform independent scientific and technical peer review of DOE’s program for managing and disposing of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel and provide findings and recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of Energy and the interested public.

More information on the meeting can be found [here](#).

## HEINRICH LEADS SENATE ON LAB TECHNOLOGY

Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) has taken the lead this spring on national laboratory technology transfer bills, introducing two bills on the topic with two colleagues, Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO). The bills, S. 784, the Microlab Technology Commercialization Act, and S. 1259, the National Laboratory Technology Maturation Act, will be considered during a Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on June 9. More on that hearing can be found [here](#). Two press releases explaining the bills can be found below. The senators would greatly appreciate any support from energy communities across the complex.

### *Heinrich, Gardner Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Boost Technology Transfer, Establish Microlabs*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 18, 2015) - U. S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, introduced S. 784, the Microlab Technology Commercialization Act, a bill to accelerate technology transfer by establishing off-campus microlabs that would serve as the “front-door” to national laboratories. The microlabs would give academia, local government, businesses owners, and communities direct access to equipment, facilities, and personnel of national laboratories.

“Scientists and engineers at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories are known for developing advanced technology and scientific breakthroughs,” said Sen. Heinrich. “If we make it easier to partner those talents and entities with New Mexico's research universities and private industries, not only will we realize the true potential for technology transfer, but those results can also boost entrepreneurship and create good, private sector jobs.”

“This will further increase the value of scientific research by making it more accessible to the organizations that could use it the most,” said Sen. Gardner. “The Microlab Technology Commercialization Act would create a link between cutting-edge scientific facilities and small businesses, local governments, and academic

institutions. In Colorado, institutions like the National Renewable Energy Laboratory conduct the research that powers our new energy future. This bill will help make those innovations more available to the public, to small businesses, and to everyone who could benefit from advanced research.”

The bill directs the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with directors of national laboratories, to establish microlabs based on criteria to include whether employees of a national laboratory and persons from industry, academia, and government are available to be assigned to the microlab and cost-sharing or in-kind contributions from state and local governments and private industry.

A Brookings Institution [report](#) on technology transfer found that, “Microlabs would help overcome both the problem that most labs are located outside of major metropolitan areas, and the fact that most lab research occurs ‘behind the fence’ of main campuses. These microlabs could take the form of additional joint research institutes or new facilities that allow access to lab expertise for untapped regional economic clusters.”

There are 17 U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories across the country, including Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, and National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. The Feynman Center for Innovation at Los Alamos and the Sandia Center for Collaboration and Commercialization are examples of outside-the-fence centers where industry collaborators can partner with the labs to commercialize technology for the private market.

The bill authorizes \$50 million to cover the federal share of establishing microlabs at the participating 17 national laboratories. A copy of the bill is available [here](#).

### *Heinrich, Bennet Introduce Bill To Launch Tech-Transfer Maturation Program*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 11, 2015) - U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) introduced legislation to launch a

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## Heinrich Leads Senate on Lab Technology

new National Laboratory Technology Maturation Program (NLTMP) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to facilitate successful commercialization of laboratory-developed technologies and boost regional, technology-driven economic impacts. The bill, S.1259, the National Laboratory Technology Maturation Act, will be considered during a [hearing](#) in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 4.

Under the National Laboratory Technology Maturation Program, small businesses with licensed technology from a national laboratory could apply for a voucher for up to up to \$250,000 to purchase assistance from lab scientists and engineers to mature the technology and further develop products and services until they are market-ready or sufficiently developed to attract private investment. Small businesses with vouchers could also use their local lab's special equipment, facilities, partner on a commercial prototype, or perform early-stage feasibility or later-stage field testing.

“Connecting New Mexico small businesses with scientists and engineers at Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory can spur innovation, boost our private tech industry, and create jobs,” said Sen. Heinrich. “By providing a steady stream of technologies that could yield dividends in commercial markets, we create an environment that strengthens our economy while encouraging future innovators to discover the next breakthrough idea.”

“NREL is a driving force of Colorado's innovation economy and is helping small businesses throughout our state through its pilot technology transfer program,” said Sen. Bennet. “Expanding this program will allow more small businesses to take advantage of the resources and expertise at NREL

and other national labs. This type of investment will help spur more innovation and boost our competitiveness in the 21st century economy.”

A Brookings Institution [report](#) last September suggested a voucher program for local businesses could help connect national laboratories with their regions and support innovation and economic growth. The report indicated that the labs should “embrace a new mission that includes more active engagement with regional innovation systems within which they are located.”

Under the NLTMP, each national laboratory could apply to DOE for up to \$5 million per year to pay the cost of the vouchers. The bill authorizes NLTMP for five years to provide sufficient time to demonstrate a return on the investment, including such factors as increased licenses to small businesses, jobs created or retained, increased sales, and subsequent funding attracted or leveraged.

Individual projects could receive vouchers up to \$250,000. All proposals would be reviewed by a board made up of both technical and business members, with representation from the commercial market.

Throughout the duration of a project, interim progress toward commercialization milestones would be tracked and measured. Each laboratory would be required to submit a report to DOE annually on their implementation of the program, and DOE will submit a report to Congress after five years summarizing the results of the program and proposing possible improvements to it.

In March, DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy [launched a small pilot program](#) that will select three to five national labs to participate in a voucher program for small businesses focused only on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

A copy of S.1259, the National Laboratory Technology Maturation Act is available [here](#).

## DOE SET TO SHIP NUCLEAR MATERIALS FROM OAK RIDGE TO NEVADA

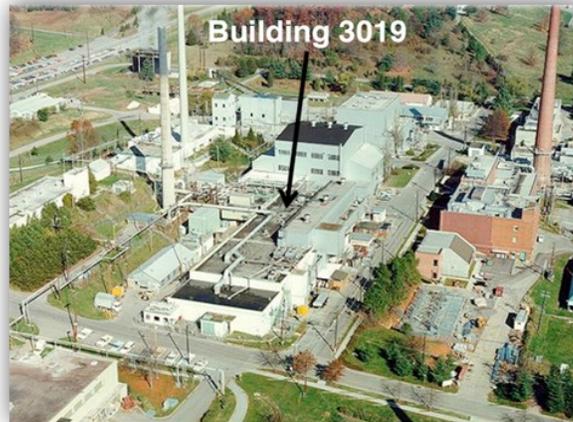
Frank Munger, on his blog *Atomic City Underground*, reports that the Energy Department is on the verge of shipping highly radioactive and fissionable materials from Oak Ridge National Laboratory to the Nevada National Security Site. This comes after a two-year delay because of objections from the State of Nevada.

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval challenged the Department's original disposal plans which were put on hold in early 2013. A state/DOE working group was later formed to address concerns and the original plan has been significantly modified to include safety features. A memorandum of understanding was signed in December.

DOE Chief of Staff Kevin Knobloch released a statement on May 5 regarding the shipment plans:

"After productive discussions with the State of Nevada, resulting in numerous accommodations related to transportation, disposal, and stakeholder engagement, the Department of Energy is moving forward with the shipments of the Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Program materials from the Oak Ridge site to the Nevada National Security Site. This decision follows discussions by the leadership of both the State of Nevada and the Department of Energy to

strengthen our working relationship and to address the concerns of the State over the past 18 months of focused dialogue. The Nevada National Security Site is an important location for the Department of Energy, the State of Nevada, and our Nation, and we look forward to continuing this productive and mutually beneficial relationship."



The CEUSP materials are stored in Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Building 3019 on the lab's historic Central Campus.

Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Program (CEUSP) materials are associated with a past project that evaluated the potential of using Uranium-233 as fuel for nuclear reactors. Shipments of the

materials drew concern because they are highly radioactive due to the decay of the uranium isotopes. The materials are also highly fissionable which means there is the possibility of it being converted for use in a bomb.

After productive discussions with the State of Nevada, resulting in numerous accommodations related to transportation, disposal, and stakeholder engagement, the Department of Energy is moving forward with the shipments from the Oak Ridge site to the Nevada National Security Site.

More than 400 containers of the nuclear material will eventually be transported to the disposal location, though DOE spokespeople declined to discuss the actual shipping schedule. A test shipment (without any radioactive material) was conducted during the week of May 4. The test

shipment allowed the DOE to go through the exercise of obtaining overweight shipping permits from Nevada and other states along the route.

**ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE**

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May 15, 2015

Chairman Fred Upton  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: *Energy Community Support for Development of a Separate Repository for  
DOE-managed Defense High-Level Radioactive Waste***

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative Pallone:

Upon reading your April 14, 2015 letter to Energy Secretary Moniz, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) agrees with most of the concerns outlined in your questions and we believe the U.S. Department of Energy should respond. However, we are also concerned that many of the interests of the local governments and communities that host defense nuclear facilities in the United States are not being fully understood. After years of virtually no movement on the nuclear waste front, the Administration has proposed a path forward to only begin the studies and actions needed to develop a potential repository for defense high-level nuclear waste. We believe any movement on this issue can be beneficial.

ECA is the only national organization of local, elected and appointed officials in communities adjacent to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Defense Facilities. Our communities play a key role supporting the country's national security efforts hosting federal national defense sites with the understanding – based on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) – that the waste would ultimately be disposed of in a geologic repository. As you are well aware, the development of a geologic repository has not proceeded as planned and our communities now serve as *de facto* high-level nuclear waste storage sites – without a single “consent-based” vote from any community.

Billions of taxpayer and ratepayer dollars have been spent on the Yucca Mountain Project. Despite recent actions by the Administration, current law still requires that a geologic repository be built at Yucca Mountain for the permanent disposal of both defense waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel. ECA supports proceeding with the Yucca Mountain licensing

**Defense Nuclear Facilities**

May 15, 2015

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application, but we also support pursuing other options simultaneously in order to begin moving nuclear waste out of our communities in the most expedited manner possible.

Without a geologic repository, defense wastes could remain orphaned in our communities that never planned to be permanent or long-term storage sites. A final geologic repository – whether at Yucca Mountain, WIPP, or elsewhere – is essential to the final disposition of defense waste and integral to the success of DOE’s Environmental Cleanup mission. This will not change regardless of decisions made to comingle or separate defense and commercial nuclear waste.

ECA sees advantages to prioritizing defense waste, many based on the differences that exist between legacy defense waste and commercial spent nuclear fuel:

1. Defense waste is older and generally less radioactive than commercial spent fuel.
2. Defense high-level waste has only one disposition path: a geologic repository.
3. There is a smaller, known volume of defense waste. Approximately 2,460 metric tons of heavy metal (MTHM) of high-level waste (approximately 2,150 MTHM defense and 310 MTHM non-defense) is consolidated and stored mainly at the Hanford site in Washington, the Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho, and at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina – the latter alone has about 4,000 canisters of vitrified high-level waste glass logs ready for disposal.
4. There is an increased risk to human health and the environment the longer we wait to address it.
5. Other DOE missions are affected by the lack of a disposition path for defense waste. For example, further delays will violate legal commitments DOE has with states. Missing milestones, failing to meet deadlines or to honor agreements will adversely affect DOE’s Office of Environmental Management’s cleanup program.
6. The DOE waste has a different funding source than commercial waste.
7. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 gives DOE the authority to move forward with defense waste management and disposition.

Our local communities want to see progress from the federal government on moving the high-level nuclear waste to a safe repository, and our communities that potentially want to host a nuclear waste interim facility want funding to analyze the potential of using their site for this mission. Moving forward with the process will lead to lessons learned for subsequent repositories, including how to do consent-based siting and transportation planning. It will allow EPA and NRC to begin to evaluate new regulatory requirements. Most importantly, it can help rebuild trust and public acceptability. Finally, it will not impact the viability of Yucca Mountain.

**Defense Nuclear Facilities**

May 15, 2015

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ECA understands the challenges nuclear waste disposition presents, but there are potential advantages to considering multiple options and pursuing them in parallel. Simply setting a date of 2048 to open a national high-level waste repository does not seem to be a viable option.

We appreciate your work on this important issue and if we can be of assistance and provide additional information, please contact Kara Colton, ECA's Director of Nuclear Energy Programs, at (703) 864-3520 or by email at [kara.colton@energyca.org](mailto:kara.colton@energyca.org).

Sincerely,



Chuck Smith  
Chairman, Energy Communities Alliance and  
Councilmember, Aiken County, SC

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS

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### *Security at the Nevada National Security Site*

On May 8, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) an [audit](#) of security management at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) was released. NNSS supports research and development programs for the NNSA. Two contractors, National Security Technologies, LLC, and Centerra Group, LLC, are primarily responsible for security activities at the site. The OIG reported that “nothing came to our attention to indicate that security at NNSS was not generally managed effectively.” An important security infrastructure project, known as Argus, has experienced significant schedule delays and cost increases, however. Argus is the NNSA’s recommended enterprise security system, but has been delayed due to inadequate project management and funding issues. The OIG found that the countermeasures may not be the most efficient or cost effective method to meet NNSS security requirements.

### *Alleged Nuclear Material Control and Accountability Weaknesses at the Department of Energy's Portsmouth Project*

On May 21, the OIG released a [report](#) in response to an allegation that nuclear material accountability and access controls at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant were inadequate. The report’s summary notes that in general, “nothing came to our attention to indicate that the required nuclear material access controls were not in place. However, we found that improvements at Portsmouth could be made to increase confidence that nuclear material was accounted for and that any compromised tamper indicating devices protecting nuclear material are replaced in a timely manner.”

## NUCLEAR RODS SAFE TO ENTER IDAHO



Hot Fuel Examination Facility at the Idaho National Laboratory, about 50 miles west of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Officials at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) have said that two shipments of spent fuel rods can be safely handled at the site, according to the *Associated Press*. These shipments are meant to help the Energy Department better understand “high burnup” spent fuel that is accumulating at nuclear power plants across the country. High burnup fuel remains in nuclear cores longer to produce more energy but comes out hotter and more radioactive. It is cooled in pools before being encased in steel and concrete.

The two shipments, which were agreed to by Governor Butch Otter in January, have attracted

some controversy in the state. A bipartisan pair of former governors opposed the shipments on the grounds that they are the start of turning Idaho into a nuclear waste dump. Many others support the shipments on the basis that the state will lose millions and INL could lose jobs and its status as a nuclear research facility if Idaho opposes the shipments. Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper wrote an [editorial](#) on this very issue in March that was published throughout the state and shared ECA’s March bulletin.

Also at issue is the DOE’s violation of its 1995 agreement with Idaho regarding cleanup. Malfunctions at the \$571 million Integrated Waste Treatment Unit are causing delays turning more than 900,000 gallons of liquid waste into a solid form. A spokesman for Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden said the state will not accept the fuel rods until the DOE can show it can successfully process the liquid waste. DOE has informed the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality that it has estimated it could begin waste processing at the facility in October. Further, waste meant for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico is also stuck in the state, past deadlines set in the 1995 agreement.

The spent fuel rod shipments are slated to take place in June of this year and January 2016.

## BROWNFIELDS 2015 TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

Brownsfield 2015 is the premier conference and trade show focused on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. This upcoming event, which will take place from September 2-4, 2015 in Chicago, IL, is the 16<sup>th</sup> National Brownfields Training Conference and promises to attract thousands of stakeholders for three days of training, networking, and business development. On April 30, a limited number of travel scholarships were announced to defray costs of attending the

conference. The scholarships will cover costs for three nights at one of the conference hotels. Eligible applicants include elected and appointed officials of tribal and local governments, as well as employees of nonprofit organizations, community groups, environmental justice (EJ) organizations and academic institutions. The deadline for applications is June 1. For more information, see [here](#).



## OHIO REPRESENTATIVES PRESSURE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLAIN PIKETON CLEANUP



Congressmen  
Brad Wenstrup



Senator  
Rob Portman



Congressmen  
Bill Johnson

On May 21, Congressmen Brad Wenstrup (OH-2) and Bill Johnson (OH-6) were joined by Senator Rob Portman in demanding the DOE detail its plan for avoiding disruptions in the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) operations at Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Their [letter](#) to Secretary Moniz follows a decision by the DO to place restrictions on a program that has been critical to funding work at the site according to a [press release](#).

“In recent years, the D&D operations at Piketon have been supplemented by the sale of excess uranium,” the lawmakers wrote. “Your previous secretarial determination covered transfers up to the equivalent of 2,055 metric tons of natural uranium (MTU) per year, in natural uranium hexafluoride provided to contractors for cleanup services at the

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The 2015 determination, however, reduces covered transfers down to 1,600 MTU for the 2016 calendar year, creating a shortfall of 455 MTU. We respectfully request that DOE explain, in detail, how workforce disruptions will be avoided in 2016 given the potential funding shortfalls described above.”

The letter argues that the Administration’s budget has routinely underfunded Portsmouth cleanup, which came in at \$48.6 million below the funding levels provided in fiscal year 2015. The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill restored that funding, providing \$213 million for D&D operations. Environmental clean-up and restoration work employs nearly 2,000 individuals in Southern Ohio.

## CODE BLUE DECLARED AT PANTEX

**CODEBLUE**

NNSA has declared a “Code Blue” at the Pantex Plant in Texas on May 4. A Code Blue, according to Shelly Laver, NNSA’s deputy director of public affairs, is essentially a safety review.”

“Basically by titling it a Code Blue, it’s going to ensure senior NNSA and (Pantex contractor Consolidated Nuclear Security) CNS management and other experts in our field are involved in it,” Laver told *Amarillo Globe-News*.

The review will include two nuclear weapons programs at the plant. Pantex, located about 17 miles northeast of Amarillo in House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry’s (R-TX)

district, assembles, dismantles, and modifies nuclear weapons for the U.S. stockpile. It also stores tons of weapons-grade plutonium recovered from dismantled warheads.

The review focuses on two nuclear weapons systems designed to be carried by aircraft or affixed to cruise missiles. The Code Blue designation serves mostly to raise attention and does not reflect the condition of the weapons themselves. Rather, it serves to encourage management to further address any process issues without disrupting operations. It is unclear how long the Code Blue declaration will last.

## CONTRACTS

<p><b>Sandia National Laboratory Management and Operations</b></p> <p><i>Status:</i> Issued May 20 <i>Response:</i> June 30</p> <p>For more information, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>NNSA is seeking a contractor to manage and operate Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). SNL is presently managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000 and is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC). SNL's contract expires on April 30, 2016. NNSA will exercise Sandia's one-year option period, extending performance until April 30, 2017. NNSA will conduct a full and open competition for a follow-on management and operating (M&amp;O) contract consisting of a four-month transition and a five-year base period with options for up to five additional years. Issuance of the solicitation will be announced through <a href="https://www.fbo.gov/">https://www.fbo.gov/</a> and <a href="https://www.fedconnect.net/Fedconnect/">https://www.fedconnect.net/Fedconnect/</a>.</p>
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## GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

### *HANFORD WASTE TREATMENT: DOE Needs to Evaluate Alternatives to Recently Proposed Projects and Address Technical and Management Challenges*

On May 7, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) examining how two DOE proposed facilities may help achieve Hanford's waste treatment mission, the extent to which DOE's cost and schedule estimates meet best practices, and how technical and management challenges continue to impact the Waste Treatment and immobilization Plant (WTP). GAO recommended that DOE (1) broaden the facilities' statements of mission need to allow for a full analysis of alternatives, (2) revise the facilities' cost and schedule estimates in accordance with industry best practices, and (3) enlist the services of an external entity to assist with oversight of the WTP contractor. DOE generally agreed with GAO's recommendations but not some of the conclusions. GAO continues to believe its conclusions are fair and well supported.

### *NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL: Enhancing Interagency Collaboration Could Help with Implementation of Expanded Responsibilities*

On May 21, GAO issued a [report](#) on the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC). NWC serves as the focal point of Defense Department and NNSA interagency activities to maintain the nuclear weapons stockpile. NWC, established by Congress in 1986, includes five senior officials from both departments and facilitates coordination between them. GAO found that NWC faces a number of challenges in carrying out its responsibilities. GAO recommends that DOD and DOE update the Council's 1997 memorandum of agreement to (1) describe Council processes and its two support committees' roles, responsibilities, structure, and functions and (2) require that DOD and NNSA budget and program evaluation officials attend all support committee meetings. DOD and NNSA generally agreed with GAO's recommendations.



Check out Daughters of Hanford, a project that highlights women's perspectives of the Hanford nuclear site. The project offers a cross-section of politicians, leaders, and environmental cleanup advocates - all women who were part of history and the future talent putting their minds on the nuclear site's toughest problems. More information [here](#).

## DOE/NNSA FACILITY MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

Facility	Owner	Contractor	Award Date	End Date	Options/Award Term	Ultimate Potential Expiration Date	Contract
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC)	SC	Stanford University DE-AC03-76SF00515	1/25/1981	9/30/2017		9/30/2017	M&O
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)	SC	Battelle Memorial Institute DE-AC05-76RL01830	12/30/2002	9/30/2017		9/30/2017	M&O
Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL)	SC	Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC DE-SC0012704	12/22/2014	1/4/2020	5 years Base Award; Additional 15 years Award Term available	1/4/2035	M&O
Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)	SC	U T Battelle LLC DE-AC05-00OR22725	10/18/1999	3/31/2015	5 year Extension	3/31/2020	M&O
Savannah River Site (SRS)	EM	Savannah River Nuclear Solutions LLC (SRNS) DE-AC09-08SR22470	1/10/2008	9/30/2016	5 year option period available out to 7/31/2018 (first 38 months of Option Period have been exercised)	7/31/2018	M&O
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)	EERE	Alliance for Sustainable Energy (ASE) DE-AC36-08GO28308	7/29/2008	5/30/2015	One 40 month period remaining	9/30/2018	M&O
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL)	SC	The Trustees of Princeton University DE-AC02-09CH11466	4/1/2009	3/31/2018	5 years Award Term Earned/No additional Award Term available	3/31/2019	M&O
Idaho National Laboratory (INL)	NE	Battelle Energy Alliance LLC DE-AC07-05ID14517	11/9/2004	9/30/2019		9/30/2019	M&O
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)	SC	The Regents of the University Of California DE-AC02-05CH11231	4/19/2005	5/31/2015	11 years Award Term Earned/additional 4 years Award Term available	5/31/2025	M&O
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF)	SC	Jefferson Science Associates LLC DE-AC05-06OR23177	4/14/2006	5/31/2016	9 years Award Term Earned/Additional 5 years Award Term Available, 1 year of Award Term lost	5/31/2025	M&O
Argonne National Laboratory (ANL)	SC	UChicago Argonne LLC DE-AC02-06CH11357	7/31/2006	9/30/2016	9 years Award Term Earned/additional 6 years Award Term available	9/30/2026	M&O
Ames National Laboratory (Ames)	SC	Iowa State University DE-AC02-07CH11358	12/4/2006	12/31/2016	9 years Award Term Earned/additional 6 years Award Term available	12/31/2026	M&O
Fermi National Accelerator Center (Fermi/FNAL)	SC	Fermi Research Alliance LLC DE-AC01-07CH11359	11/1/2006	12/31/2016	9 years Award Term Earned/additional 6 years Award Term available	12/31/2026	M&O
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)	NNSA	Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC DE-AC52-07NA27344	5/9/2007	9/30/2018	4 years Award Term earned/ additional 9 years Award Term available	9/30/2027	M&O
Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	NNSA	Los Alamos National Security LLC DE-AC52-06NA25396	12/21/2005	9/30/2018	5 years Award Term Earned/ 8 years Award Term available	9/30/2026	M&O
Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia/SNL)	NNSA	Sandia Corporation DE-AC04-94AL85000	9/30/2003	4/30/2016		4/30/2016	M&O
Strategic Petroleum Reserve Office (SPRO)	FE	Fluor Federal Petroleum Operations DE-FE0011020	4/1/2014	3/31/2019	One 5 year Option Period	3/31/2024	M&O
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)	EM	Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC DE-EM0001971	4/20/2012	9/30/2017	5 year Option Period	9/30/2022	M&O
NNSA Production Office, Pantex and Y-12 Security Complex	NNSA	Consolidated Nuclear Security LLC DE-NA0001942	3/3/2014	6/30/2019	5 Year base period (Transition to 6/30/14)		M&O
Bettis/Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory	NNSA	Bechtel Marine Propulsion DE-NR0000031	9/18/2008	9/30/2018		9/30/2018	M&O

# 2015 Congressional Calendar

- Senate in session
- Both chambers in session
- Both chambers in recess
- Federal holiday

## April

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3 Good Friday & Passover Begins
6	7	8	9	10 Passover Ends (4/11)
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

## May

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29

## June

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

## July

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3 Independence Day (Federal holiday)
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

## August

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

## September

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11
14	15 Rosh Hashanah ends (begins 9/13)	16	17	18
21	22 Yom Kippur begins	23 Yom Kippur Ends	24	25
28	29	30		

## October

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

## November

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27
30				

## December

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7 Hanukkah begins (12/6)	8	9	10	11
14 Hanukkah ends	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
28	29	30	31	

# 2015 Calendar of Events



Week of June 1 and 8	Senate floor action on S. 1376, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2016
June 3	DNFSB Public Hearing and Meeting, more information here
June 16	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearing to Consider the Nomination of Dr. Monica Regalbuto to be EM-1
June 23-24	Project on Nuclear Issues 2015 Summer Conference in Los Alamos, NM, more information here
<b>July 16-17</b>	<b>ECA Peer Exchange: Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Los Alamos County, NM (see page 4 for more information)</b>
July 19	Hearing to Receive Testimony on S. 854, the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2015 and other nuclear fuel cycle legislation
August	Congressional Summer Recess
September 8	Congress Reconvenes
September – October	Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories reports to Congress and the Energy Department
October 1	Start of FY 2016
November – December	DOE Intergovernmental Meeting



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**Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Bulletin**

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