

April 2015

# ECA Bulletin

Local Concerns. National Impact



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## ECA CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF DOE CONTRACTING



Chairman  
Chuck Smith

On April 29, ECA Chairman Chuck Smith, an Aiken County, South Carolina councilmember, sent a letter to Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney requesting a dialogue to improve the DOE's contracting system. The letter was developed by the Contracting Subcommittee established by ECA in February in light of concerns

communities have regarding the direction of DOE's procurement practices. The letter is set forth below:

Dear Mr. Whitney:

Energy Community Alliance (ECA) is writing this letter to express concern about the direction of DOE procurement practices and how they impact our communities. As you know, ECA represents communities that host a broad array of DOE

*(Continued on page 4)*

## NEW MEXICO AND DOE ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT ON NUCLEAR WASTE INCIDENTS

In the latest DOE-state agreement, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz released the terms of a \$73 settlement of the State's claims against DOE related to the February 2014 incidents at WIPP and LANL on April 30.

"The Department of Energy and the State of New Mexico have worked together to identify projects at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the Los Alamos

National Laboratory that are mutually beneficial and do not detract from cleanup at these sites," said Secretary Moniz. "I am pleased that we were able to find a solution that will allow the Department to focus on resuming operations at WIPP and improving our waste management operations,

*(Continued on page 9)*



Governor  
Susana Martinez

## Executive Committee



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## Legislative Update

Congress is on track to do something it hasn't done in years: pass a budget.

The House passed a compromise budget agreement largely along party lines by a vote of 226-197 late last Thursday. The Senate is expected to consider the measure the week of May 3.

While the congressional budget resolution is not law, it does lay out various funding totals, allocations, entitlements, and other spending instructions for House and Senate Committees. A sizeable portion of the Department of Energy's budget (NNSA and environmental cleanup work) is considered defense spending and thus competes with the Pentagon's budget for its fair share.

On Wednesday, April 29, Budget Committee Chairmen Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY) and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) released their FY 2016 budget conference agreement. The agreement reflects the Budget Control Act discretionary spending caps for the year which are set at nearly \$1.02 trillion with base defense spending limited to \$523 billion and non-defense spending at \$493 billion. The agreement also includes \$96 billion for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, nearly a third of which is being used this year to fund normal Pentagon operations. Democrats and the White House are opposed to the resolution because it maintains sequestration levels while fiscal hawks are opposed to OCO funds being used to sidestep spending caps.

The conference report can be found [here](#).

### ***Energy and Water Spending Bill***

Appropriators have been busy this month with the Energy and Water (E&W) and Military Construction Appropriations bills moving quickly through committee. The E&W spending bill passed the House on May 1 by a vote of 240-177. It is the second appropriations bill passed this year.

The E&W spending bill, H.R. 2028, appropriates \$35.4 billion to the agencies under its jurisdiction, a

### **ECA Peer Exchange: Advancing Nuclear Priorities Aiken County, South Carolina May 18-19, 2015**

ECA's Peer Exchange on Advancing Nuclear Priorities will focus on discussion of nuclear policies and technologies that are priorities for the next two years. Local elected officials and administrators from across the DOE complex will be joined by speakers including Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Pete Lyons, officials from DOE's Office of Environmental Management, regulators, representatives of the Eddy Lea Alliance, Waste Control Specialists, AECOM, and SRNS to address the role of local governments on issues including consent-based siting, interim storage, alternative disposal paths for defense waste, new nuclear development, and ensuring a nuclear workforce for the future.

For more information please contact  
Kara Colton at

[kara.colton@energyca.org](mailto:kara.colton@energyca.org)

\$1.2 billion increase over last year's levels but \$633 million less than the Administration's request.

DOE's environmental cleanup activities are funded at \$5.9 billion, \$38.7 million above FY 2015 levels and \$91.7 million above the budget request. Defense Environmental Cleanup is funded at \$5,055,550,000, more than \$55 million above last year's enacted funding and on par with the budget request. The report on the spending bill notes that \$10 million is to be spent on funding hazardous

*(Continued on page 5)*

<b>Department of Energy FY 2016 Budget Request*</b>			
<b>Appropriation</b>	<b>FY 2015 Enacted (\$)</b>	<b>FY 2016 Request (\$)</b>	<b>House FY 2016 Bill (\$)</b>
<b>Department of Energy Total</b>	27,916,797,000	30,527,136,000	29,012,069,000
<b>National Nuclear Security Administration</b>			
<b>Weapons Activities</b>	8,186,657,000	8,846,948,000	8,713,000,000
<b>Total NNSA Funding</b>	11,407,295,000	12,565,400,000	12,329,000,000
<b>Environmental Management Funding</b>			
<b>Defense Environmental Cleanup</b>	5,000,000,000	5,055,550,000	5,055,550,000
<b>Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup</b>	246,000,000	220,185,000	229,193,000
<b>Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund</b>	625,000,000	542,289,000	625,000,000
<b>Total EM Funding</b>	5,871,000,000	5,818,024,000	5,909,743,000
<b>Cleanup Funding Highlights</b>			
<b>Carlsbad/WIPP</b>	320,000,000	243,318,000	285,584,000
<b>Hanford/Richland</b>	941,000,000	843,837,000	922,711,000
<b>Idaho National Laboratory</b>	380,203,000	360,783,000	390,783,000
<b>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</b>	1,366,000	1,366,000	1,366,000
<b>Los Alamos National Laboratory</b>	185,000,000	188,625,000	180,000,000
<b>Oak Ridge Reservation</b>	223,050,000	177,353,000	197,953,000
<b>Office of River Protection</b>	1,212,000,000	1,414,000,000	1,268,000,000
<b>Nevada NNSA Site</b>	64,851,000	62,385,000	62,385,000
<b>Paducah</b>	207,215,000	168,652,000	193,652,000
<b>Portsmouth</b>	214,024,000	165,417,000	213,417,000
<b>Sandia National Laboratory</b>	2,801,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
<b>Savannah River Site</b>	1,121,307,000	1,208,421,000	1,191,543,000
<b>Nuclear Energy Funding</b>			
<b>Nuclear Energy</b>	833,500,000	907,574,000	936,161,000
<b>Nuclear Waste Disposal</b>			
<b>Waste Disposal (Yucca)</b>	---	---	150,000,000
<b>Legacy Management Funding</b>			
<b>Legacy Management</b>	171,980,000	167,180,000	167,180,000

\*According to the House Energy and Water Appropriations Spending Bill (H.R. 2028); discrepancies between this chart and prior versions are based on differences in accounting and estimation formulas

*(Continued from page 1)*

## **ECA Concerned About The Direction of DOE Contracting**

facilities from national laboratories to cleanup and closure sites.

DOE has been successful in many of its missions in the past, largely due to the success of its major contracts. The most successful contracts generated significant interest from a broad array of bidders due to incentives. Significant cleanup and research work was accomplished, small business was encouraged, and host communities benefited through local job creation from the reduction of environmental liabilities and investments in research and community diversity. It has been a win-win.

Our concern is that DOE is departing from the most successful contract mechanisms and past practices that cleaned up Rocky Flats, Fernald and the Hanford River Corridor. Instead, the latest

procurement approaches replace incentives structures with punitive liabilities. The results have discouraged competition and small business integration. Tier 1 engineering firms are reluctant if not openly avoiding the latest round of DOE procurements. Good contractors are key to good outcomes and we feel that DOE's current approach is driving industry away.

Our communities depend on cleanup obligations being met, local small businesses being supported, and the positive outcomes from highly sought after competitive bids. Historically communities have served as vital partners with the DOE field offices and contractors. Now DOE seems to be focusing instead on centralizing the process, relying on the influence of DOE-HQ and thus, is becoming increasingly deaf to local needs and site-specific issues. Instead of empowering field offices to be more involved, the latest procurements seem to decouple contract decisions from local knowledge, insight and sensitivity to community needs. ECA is

ECA is deeply concerned that DOE's procurement process is going the wrong direction.

deeply concerned that DOE's procurement process is going the wrong direction.

Contracts do not appear to reflect the importance of contractors engaging with their host communities. The voice of the community, DOE Field Offices, and knowledgeable contractors seems to be drowned out. Short contract performance periods no longer line up with site-specific milestones or terminate just as the contractors finally come up to speed. Contract mechanisms no longer seem to align well with the scope of work being sought. ECA believes DOE has become overly risk-averse, loading contracts with risk and liabilities that discourage - rather than reward - innovation and creativity.

We are not yearning for the past, but we have learned a lot about contracting and the impacts on the cleanup work in our community and we are deeply concerned about the impacts that contracting has on the work in the future. There are major competitive bids due in the coming years.

The current approach to contracting is proving to be increasingly insupportable to communities that host DOE sites. ECA has formed a subcommittee to review best contracting practices across the complex with an eye for replicating formulas that have proven to serve the mutual interests of DOE and the respective host communities.

During our deliberations, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with EM leadership to discuss the issues and incorporate their comments into our review. When ECA completes its work, we would like to open a dialogue with you to share our recommendations. We, as elected officials, have a common interest and are seeking the same outcomes: successful cleanup, successful research, successful contracts and supportive communities.

Sincerely,

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

(Continued from page 2)

## Legislative Update

waste working training. Select highlights are below and a chart is available on page 3.

- Hanford Site - \$2.2 billion
- Idaho National Laboratory - \$390.7 million
- NNSA Sites - \$246 million
- Oak Ridge Reservation - \$197.9 million
- Office of River Protection - \$1.3 billion
- Savannah River Site - \$1.2 billion
- Uranium Processing Facility - \$430 million
- Waste Treatment Plant - \$690 million
- WIPP - \$285.9 million

The Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository has also been funded in the bill to the tune of \$150 million. \$425 million has also been appropriated for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue the licensing process for Yucca.

The Administration has issued a veto threat because of Yucca Mountain and other provisions it disagrees with, including maintaining sequester level spending and “misplaced priorities.”

The full bill can be found [here](#).

The full Committee report can be found [here](#).

The Statement of Administration Policy can be found [here](#).

### ***House National Defense Authorization Act Moving***

The House Armed Services Subcommittees released and passed their portions of H.R. 1735 throughout the week of April 20. It was marked up on Wednesday, April 29 and passed by the full committee by a vote of 60-2 at 4:30 am on Thursday morning. Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-TX) announced his intention for the entire House to consider the NDAA the week of May 12.

The bill authorizes \$611.9 billion in defense spending: \$515 billion for national defense, \$89.2 billion for war funding, and \$7.7 billion for the State Department. This total is equivalent to the President’s total defense discretionary spending, but differs from Administration proposals to overturn sequestration. Rather than changing base defense spending caps, legislators sidestepped sequestration limits by using \$38.3 billion of the war funding account to support activities normally funded in the Pentagon’s base budget. The Administration has threatened to veto a bill that does not include overturning sequestration but it is unclear if it will do so since the total authorized spending matches the Administration’s request.

More information on the NDAA and its approval process can be found [here](#).

### ***“Nuclear Option” of Fallout***

Civilian nominations are moving slowly through the confirmation process in what some high-ranking Senate Republicans are saying is payback for the Democrats’ decision to resort to the so-called “nuclear option” in 2013. The nuclear option allowed the majority to change the rules to prohibit filibusters against a number of presidential nominees. Now, Arizona Senator John McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is refusing to move ten civilian nominations through his panel.

“I told ’em: ‘You jam them through, it’s going to be a long time before I approve of them,’” McCain told *Politico* recently.

Among those languishing in committee are three nominees to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) and Monica Regalbutto, the nominee to lead the DOE’s Office of Environmental Management.



Voices of the Manhattan Project, a joint development by the Atomic Heritage Foundation and the Los Alamos Historical Society, is publishing Manhattan Project oral histories. Check them out at [www.manhattanprojectvoices.org](http://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org).

## DOE RELEASE DRAFT REPORT ON NATIONAL LABORATORIES



The Secretary of Energy Advisory Board National Laboratory Task Force released its draft interim report in late March. The report proposes a series of new mechanisms and procedures to enhance the performance of the National Laboratories through targeted “experiments” in three key areas: (1) the management and operation contracting system; (2) technology transfer as a means for creating value for the private sector; and (3) Laboratory Directed Research and Development. The draft report makes 15 recommendations including:

- Clarifying roles and responsibilities for mission execution at laboratories;

- Completing a study to evaluate options for changes to the contracting model;
- Authorizing experiments, including establishing timelines, to reduce and simplify control authority for certain operation procedures for laboratory management; and,
- Having national laboratories track their impact on the industry.

The full report can be read [here](#).

## SAVANNAH RIVER SEEKING TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Terry Michalske, director of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)

Terry Michalske, director of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), spoke to the South Carolina Governor’s Nuclear Advisory Council on April 9<sup>th</sup> according Derek Asberry of the *Aiken Standard*. Michalske reported that he had been directed by Secretary Ernest Moniz to assess what the future looks like for the lab’s “ability to

maintain a nuclear science and technology component in this country.” The primary need, according to the director, is to establish academic programs that will train students to step into future positions at the lab.

“It’s really important for us to get the students in early, to get interns, post-docs,” said Michalske. “What happens is, once they get in here, they say, ‘This is really challenging and interesting stuff.’ But you wouldn’t know that (because) it just doesn’t seem that interesting.”

SRNL currently employs more than 800 workers. A December report noted that within three years, up to 50 percent of Savannah River’s environmental

workforce will be eligible for retirement. A major contractor in the area reported that the average age of a site employee is 54.

There is an initiative in place, the Advanced Nuclear Skills Regionally program, to prepare students for employment. The nearly \$1 million program includes new college fields to fulfill workforce needs related to local and national missions.

An editorial in the *Aiken Standard* further called for South Carolina’s federal officials to highlight infrastructural issues at the Site, specifically the fact that Site was built about six decades ago.

“That should particularly be on the minds of policy makers as officials are requesting about \$30 million a year in additional funding over the next several years for upgrades and maintenance there,” the editorial said.

According to the SRSCRO, some of the Site’s specific needs include replacement of the electrical power distribution system to several areas. Such improvements would ensure that in the future, site facilities would be in the proper condition so great levels of processing and waste storage can take place.

## EDDY-LEA MOVING TOWARDS ESTABLISHING NUCLEAR STORAGE SITE



The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), based in southeastern New Mexico, has teamed up with Holtec International to establish an interim nuclear waste storage facility according to *Platts*. ELEA is an organization with regional participation by the City of Carlsbad, City of Hobbs, Eddy County, and

Lea County. The venture between ELEA and Holtec was announced on April 29.

Eddy and Lea County jointly own 1,000 acres of land where they would like to site an interim storage facility. There is now more than 70,000 metric tons of spent fuel stored across the country and it grows at a rate of roughly 2,000 metric tons per year. Much of that has been moved from spent storage pools into dry storage systems at plant sites.

According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, Holtec already owns the land the proposed depository would sit on and “will cover the \$80 million licensing process and \$200 million in first-phase building operations, and could expand to equal all the planned storage capacity at the politically shuttered \$15 billion Yucca Mountain storage site.”

Licensing the site could take at least three years and legal clarification would be needed to allow this arrangement to transport and store fuel at an interim site.

The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), based in southeastern New Mexico, has teamed up with Holtec International to establish an interim nuclear waste storage facility

In an April 10 letter, Governor Susana Martinez informed Energy Secretary Moniz of her support for ELEA’s efforts.

“The recent decision by your administration to adopt a consent-based approach for waste management should highlight areas such as southeastern New Mexico where there is broad support in the region for such an endeavor,” Martinez said in the letter. “There is a strong pre-existing scientific and nuclear operation workforce in the area, and the dry, remote region is well-suited for an interim storage site. ELEA has already selected a location that has been vetted extensively.”

The Governor’s letter came just a few weeks after Secretary Moniz announced in March his intentions to initiate work on the development of a consent-based siting process.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) issued a press release applauding the

ELEA-Holtec agreement.

“The nuclear industry has tremendous respect for the political leaders in New Mexico, who for years have been at the forefront of understanding nuclear issues,” NEI Senior Vice President for Government Affairs Alix Flint said. “Where others see challenges, they see opportunities. That has been New Mexico’s history since the beginning of the nuclear era. This is one more example of New Mexicans who see an opportunity to lead by creating a valuable business.

Governor Susana Martinez’s letter can be viewed [here](#).

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



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](#).

## WIPP ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BOARD RELEASES REPORT

The DOE's Accident Investigation Board released its final report on Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in April, noting that the radiation leak leading to the site's closure could have been prevented. Investigators, who spent more than a year looking into the cause of the incident, found that a chemical reaction inside a drum of waste containing nitrate salt residues and organic cat litter forced the lid open. These findings are similar to others highlighted by technical experts.

The report blames DOE headquarters, the NNSA, and the Nuclear Waste Partnership for numerous failures – from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) not having an adequate system for identifying and controlling hazards to federal officials not ensuring the existence of a “strong safety culture” at the lab. Local managers were also faulted for not resolving concerns by employees who had pointed out problems in the past.

“It wasn't an issue of malice,” Board Chair Ted Wyka told *Associated Press*. “It was more of an issue of just not understanding...the issue, the reactions that they were working with, the hazards involved and the controls.”

LANL Director Charlie McMillian acknowledged the serious deficiencies in procedures identified by the investigators.

“We now know from the investigations that if LANL had followed certain basic steps, this event would not have happened. Also, if we had complied with our hazardous waste permit, we would have avoided the serious legal and credibility issues we now face,” McMillian wrote in a staff memo.

The Investigation Report can be found [here](#).

The DNFSB recently held a public hearing in Carlsbad on WIPP. More information on that can be found [here](#).

## DOE AND SOUTH CAROLINA AGREE TO EXTEND SAVANNAH RIVER SITE CLEANUP DEADLINE

DOE has settled another dispute with a state, this time with South Carolina which has agreed to an eight-month extension to close an underground high-level nuclear waste storage tank. According to *The Augusta Chronicle*, the site now has until May 31, 2016 to empty and permanently seal in place tank 12. DOE has agreed to research commercial methods for treatment and procession of salt waste which could hasten tank closure.

Last August, DOE requested to extend closure dates for two storage tanks from September 30, 2015 to December 31, 2016. The state Department of

Health and Environmental Control denied the 15-month extension and launched a formal dispute resolution process outlined in the site's Federal Facilities Agreement.

South Carolina has pressured DOE to dispose of the waste and close the tanks they say pose an environmental risk. Some of the 51 Cold War-era tanks are rusted. Six tanks are no longer in use.

The Energy Department must provide a report to DHEC and the Environmental Protection Agency on efforts to find commercial sources for salt waste treatment by Oct. 15.



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## New Mexico and DOE Announce Settlement on Nuclear Waste Incidents

while providing benefit to the environment and to local communities in New Mexico.”

“This agreement underscores the importance of WIPP and LANL as critical assets to our nation’s security, our state’s economy, and the communities in which they operate,” said Governor Martinez. “The funds we will receive through the agreement will be used to continue ensuring the safety and success of these important facilities, the people who work there, and their local communities. I commend the Department of Energy for taking responsibility, and we look forward to continuing to work with the federal government to ensure the safety and success of LANL and WIPP.”

In lieu of paying fines, DOE has agreed to provide support for a number of mutually beneficial projects to protect local communities around DOE sites in New Mexico. These projects include:

- \$34 million to improve roads and transportation routes around the WIPP site;
- \$12 million to improve transuranic waste transportation routes in and around Los Alamos;

- \$10 million to upgrade critical water infrastructure in and around Los Alamos;
- \$9.5 million to build engineering structures and increase monitoring capabilities around LANL;
- \$5 million to construct an emergency operations center in Carlsbad and provide enhanced training for emergency responders and mine rescue teams;
- \$2.75 million to fund an independent triennial compliance and operation review.

The agreement further provides for DOE and its contractors to implement the necessary corrective actions at both facilities in order to ensure safe and sustainable continued operations. This Settlement Agreement revolves the two Administrative Consent Orders issued in December by the New Mexico Environment Department requesting \$54 million in civil penalties. It has been signed by NMED, DOE, Los Alamos National Security, and Nuclear Waste Partnership, binding them to execute a more detailed implementation plan in the weeks to come.

The press release on the issue can be read [here](#).

The Principles of the Settlement Agreement can be read [here](#).

## LAWMAKERS TOUR YUCCA



A bipartisan delegation of House lawmakers toured Yucca Mountain on April 9, led by House Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chair John Shimkus (R-IL).

Also on the tour were Reps. Bob Latta (R-OH), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Mark Amodei (R-NV), Hanford area Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA), and Yucca Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-NV).

While Hardy said he “is still not for it, or not against” the site being used for its legislated purpose, he has said he wants to put the issue of nuclear storage at the site “to bed once and for all.”

“(Yucca Mountain) has been a polarized view, one side or the other,” Hardy said according to the *Pahrump Valley Times*. “Let’s have the science

come together. The opposing science from the state of Nevada come together with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and let’s have that open discussion.”

“It’s 30 years and a \$15 billion investment by the nation,” said Shimkus after the five-mile, 90-minute tour. “Again with the facts that the (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) has said it will be safe for a million years, it’s an investment that we need to keep in mind as we move forward.”

Funds for Yucca Mountain and for the NRC to continue adjudicating the license application have been including in the House’s version of the energy and water appropriations bill. The Administration has threatened to veto the spending bill because of those and other provisions.

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD NOMINATIONS

On April 7, two individuals were nominated to serve on the DNFSB. Current Vice Chairman Jessie Hill Roberson was nominated for reappointment for a further three year term in February.

Joyce Connery has been nominated to serve as Chair of the Board. Connery currently served as the Director of Nuclear Energy Policy within the Office of International Economics on the National Security Council. She has held that position since 2012. Prior to this she served as the Senior Policy Advisor

to the Deputy Secretary of Energy and has held various positions at Argonne National Laboratory.

Bruce Hamilton, who has been a nuclear industry consultant since 2013, has also been nominated to serve as a member of the DNFSB. He served as President of Fuelco LLC from 2009 through 2013 and served for 24 years in the Navy.

For more information, see [here](#).

## KEVIN HALL NAMES OAK RIDGE OFFICE MANAGER

Kevin Hall has been named as the manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Office according to *Oak Ridge Today*. He served as the offices deputy manager since April 2013. As manager, Hall will oversee the Oak Ridge Integrated Support Center which provides critical mission support services and be responsible for the 33,500-acre Oak Ridge Reservation.



Kevin Hall

“In his role as ORO’s deputy manager, Kevin exhibited all of the qualities required to lead one of the Office of Science’s most important assets,” said Joe McBrearty, deputy director of field operations for DOE’s Office of Science. “He has tremendous experience within the Department, and he is well-suited to advance the office’s crucial work in Oak Ridge and across the county.”

Hall replaces former Oak Ridge Office Manager Larry Kelly who passed away in February.

Hall has experience at the Savannah River Site Office where he held a number of positions and was involved in the start-up of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility project. He has also managed operations of nuclear material processing and waste management facilities and worked as a nuclear engineer at Charleston Naval Shipyard.

Hall is originally from Biloxi, Mississippi, but he grew up in Tampa, Florida. His interests involve the outdoors, boating, hunting, and competing in triathlons and road races. Kevin and his wife Lydia have two children.

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## CONTRACTS OUT FOR BID

### Idaho Cleanup Project Core Contract

*Status:* RFP issued March 13, 2015; proposals due May 12, 2015

For more information, click [here](#).

DOE is seeking a contractor to safely accomplish as much of the remaining EM's cleanup mission at the Idaho Site as possible within available funding while meeting regulatory and legal requirements. The contract will apply performance-based contracting approaches and techniques. The Idaho Clean Project Core Contract (ICP-Core) will require the Contractor to perform all work specified in the contract and to determine the specific methods of accomplishing the work. In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall support and implement actions to achieve the Department's environmental clean-up goals. Contract-specific actions will be established, incentivized, monitored, evaluated, and verified in accordance with the terms and conditions of this contract.

### Los Alamos National Laboratory Legacy Completion Cleanup Project (Request for Information)

*Status:* No RFP has been issued

For more information, click [here](#) and [here](#).

EM is currently in the acquisition planning phase for potential upcoming new procurement(s) for legacy cleanup projects at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) hereafter referred to as "Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Project (LCCP) – Post Fiscal Year 2016 Contract(s)". Since its inception in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project, LANL's primary mission has been nuclear weapons research and development. The LANL EM Program mission is to safely secure and to achieve cleanup and risk reduction of legacy material, facilities, and waste sites at LANL in support of DOE's Strategic Plan to safely complete the environmental remediation of legacy and active sites while protecting human health and the environment. Since October 1, 1988, the programs that characterize and remediate contaminants in the environment, decontaminate and decommission (D&D) process-contaminated facilities, and manage and dispose of legacy transuranic (TRU) waste have been funded by DOE EM.

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

ECA's Peer Exchange on the Manhattan Project Park will focus on the set up of the new Historical Park at Oak Ridge, TN, Los Alamos, NM, and Hanford, WA. Local elected officials will be joined by National Park Service and DOE representatives and discussions on implementing the park as well as the economics of heritage tourism will take place over.

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

## 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

## JOE FRANCO TRANSFERRED FROM CARLSBAD TO RICHLAND



This month, Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney announced that Carlsbad Field Office Manager (CBFO) Joe Franco has requested a transfer to the Richland Operations Office for personal. Franco, a Carlsbad, New Mexico native who led the office since early 2012, will become the Assistant Management for Mission Support at Richland. Prior to serving as management, Franco worked at Hanford for six years. He also spent 17 years working with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Franco released a statement on his imminent

transfer and the WIPP recovery reported by *Current-Argus News*.

"We have made significant strides toward recovery at the WIPP site and I am confident that our project is on track to continue through this transition," said Franco in the statement. "I am proud to have been part of important changes and progress we have made together and I am also exceptionally proud to have witnessed the performance of the CBFO and Nuclear Waste Partnership staff, in the light of the widely recognized challenges and adversity we have faced together over the past 14 months."

### *Colleagues,*

The recovery of safe operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM, is one of EM's highest priorities. For a variety of personal reasons, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager, Joe Franco, has requested a transfer back to the Richland Operations Office (RL). The CBFO Manager position will be posted for competition very soon. Joe will continue to support the Carlsbad Field Office to ensure a smooth transition to a new Manager.

With several Hanford contracts set to expire in the 2017-2019 timeframe, RL has requested the establishment of a DOE Hanford Senior Manager responsible for the planning, procurement, award and transition to a new set of Hanford contracts. Karen Flynn, the current Assistant Manager for Mission Support has been selected to lead this important effort. Joe Franco will become the Assistant Manager for Mission Support upon his return to RL.

I want to thank Joe for his unwavering commitment to the essential mission of WIPP, to his workforce, and to the Carlsbad community. Please join me in thanking Joe Franco and Karen Flynn for their service to EM and in wishing them continued success in their new positions.

Sincerely,

Mark

## GOVERNMENT REPORTS

### *Department of Energy Inspector General*

Assessment of Audit Coverage of Cost Allowability for UT-Battelle, LLC, During Fiscal Year 2013

UT-Battelle, LLC, the contractor that has managed and operated the Oak Ridge National Laboratory since 2000, is required to annually account for all funds advanced by the DOE. The Inspector General found nothing to indicate that UT-Battelle's Internal audit of the \$1.4 billion is expended and claimed in FY 2013 from DOE. The Report did, however,

identify weaknesses with subcontractor auditing that needs to be addressed to ensure that only allowable costs are claimed by and reimbursed to the contractor. "Specifically, we found that UT-Battelle did not always conduct or arrange for periodic post-award or interim audits of subcontracts as noted in our assessments and audits. Consequently, incurred costs totaling \$75,387,578 in FY 2013 are considered unresolved pending audit," the Report summary says. The full report can be found [here](#).

# 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



May 6	Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing, see <a href="#">here</a> .
Week of May 11	House of Representatives Considers FY16 NDAA
Week of May 11	Senate Armed Services Subcommittees Markup of FY16 NDAA
May 13-15	Senate Armed Services Markup of FY16 NDAA
<b>May 18-19</b>	<b>ECA Peer Exchange: Advancing Nuclear Priorities in Aiken County, South Carolina (see page 2 for details)</b>
May 18-19	Savannah River Site EM SSAB Meeting, see <a href="#">here</a> .
May 22	National Energy Laboratories Commission Meeting, see <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>July 16-17</b>	<b>ECA Peer Exchange: Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Los Alamos County, New Mexico</b>
October 1	Start of Fiscal Year 2016
November-December	DOE Intergovernmental Meeting



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