

MONITOR

WEAPONS COMPLEX

Waste Management ♦ Clean Up

Volume 22 No. 33

July 8, 2011

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DOE SHAKES UP CLEANUP PROGRAM, ASST. SECRETARY TRIAY TO LEAVE POST

EM to Now Report to Under Secretary For Nuke Security

Amidst a major shakeup of the Department of Energy's cleanup program, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay is stepping down from her position for family reasons to return to career federal service. In addition, the Office of Environmental Management is set to begin reporting directly to Under Secretary for Nuclear Security Tom D'Agostino, who also heads the National Nuclear Security Administration. The changes were announced in an internal memo Secretary of Energy Steven Chu sent to DOE employees July 8. "There's a clear logic here. The Secretary has been looking at this deeply for a while." Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel

Poneman told *WC Monitor*. "Obviously, the things that get done in the EM portfolio having to do with tank waste, actinide chemistry, nuclear safety issues, have a lot more logical subject matter alignment with the things that have been happening and being worked in NNSA."

Triay was sworn in as DOE cleanup chief in May 2009, and previously had a lengthy history in EM, serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Chief Operations Officer and Deputy Chief Operations Officer, among other positions. Chu said that her decision to return to DOE's

Career Senior Executive Service “will allow her to take care of her family, while continuing to help the Department with some of its most challenging tasks.” He added, “Throughout this transition and in the years to come, Ines will continue to contribute her wisdom and expertise to the Department and its mission. We are grateful for her continued service.” Triay is expected to take a position with Florida International University through an intergovernmental personnel agreement, though the exact timing of her departure remains unknown. “She’s very, very concerned about her father and we’re all very much thinking about her and about him and we’re going to really just take a cue from her in terms of what her family needs are and that’s going to be the determining factor,” Poneman said.

New Cleanup Chief Yet to be Determined

DOE is also still in the process of evaluating a replacement for Triay to head the cleanup program. “A position of that stature is somebody’s that’s got to be vetted. So we’re working hard to get a vetting process done super quick. Once that is complete, there’ll be a name that we’re able to announce and that will be the person who will come in to take that responsibility,” Poneman said. When asked if DOE was considering elevating someone currently within EM to fill the post, he replied, “I would just say the Secretary is always going to look for the best candidate to fill any position, certainly including this one.” It also remains unclear if further senior-level management changes within EM will occur, though some officials have suggested they are likely within the next few weeks. When asked about further EM management changes, Poneman said: “What’s going to happen here is we’re just starting a transition and we’re always trying to constantly improve what we’re doing. This is the direction the Secretary wanted to take the organization now. I’m sure when the Under Secretary of Nuclear Security gets his arms around it, he’s going to be looking stem to stern because he’s an old Navy guy.”

He added, however, “The one personnel change—the only personnel change—that is being taken today is the one that’s initiated by Ines’ family situation and so that’s really

all we’re thinking about today. And what we’re thinking about today beyond that is really the organizational form, fit and function, as they say, on why EM makes more sense to align organizationally with the nuclear safety, nuclear safety, actinide chemistry and related subjects that are part of the NNSA portfolio.”

LM, Nuke Safety to Move Also

Along with EM, the offices of Legacy Management and Chief of Nuclear Safety will also report to the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, with the change to be implemented in the “coming weeks,” Chu said, describing the reorganization as intended to “align the program’s needs more closely with the agency’s resources, while enhancing project oversight.” Previously, all three offices reported directly to the Deputy Secretary of Energy under a management change implemented in May (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 Nos. 24&25). Describing the anticipated benefits of the new approach, Chu said, “This reorganization is part of our ongoing efforts to improve project management within the Department to ensure we are successfully delivering mission-critical projects for the American taxpayers. This move would enable the Department to leverage knowledge and skill sets between the offices dealing with nuclear materials and disposition. We would also be able to create additional synergies between our national laboratories and EM sites, and assure that we are effectively applying the lessons learned across all of our projects.”

Poneman said that DOE’s plans to have EM and the other offices report to the Under Secretary of Nuclear Security, while remaining separate from NNSA, would help to “optimize” the Department’s cleanup program. “We think that what we’ve got set up here sort of optimizes between the two elements that we’re talking about. It maintains the discrete integrity of the environmental mission, which I have always viewed as a moral, as well as a legal, component in terms of doing right by the people who helped defend the nation during the Cold War. And yet doing so in a way that optimizes the subject matter commonality and integration of the analytical side of the house and

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safety issues with NNSA.”

EM Has Faced Recent Concerns

Chu did not say what specifically sparked his desire to pursue changes in DOE’s cleanup program at this time, though a number of issues have emerged in recent weeks. Most recently, *WC Monitor* has learned that Chu was briefed late last week on the initial findings of a review of EM project management led by Dan Lehman from the Office of Science that reportedly was highly critical of EM (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 18). The findings of the Lehman review have not yet been made public. In addition, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in June issued a harshly worded report warning of a poor safety culture at EM’s largest project—the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant—where the Board said workers feel afraid to raise safety concerns. DOE has pushed back against the Board’s investigation, though, saying that other reviews have found that most WTP workers feel comfortable in raising concerns (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 30). Also, the Army Corps of Engineers has moved in recent weeks to reduce its involvement with EM because of project management concerns (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 29).

Reorg. May Aid ‘Dept. Of Competitiveness’ Proposal

The new reorganization may also be intended to help implement a proposal under consideration to establish a new ‘Department of Competitiveness,’ which would merge the Commerce Department with the non-defense portions of DOE, such as the Department’s loan office, Office of Nuclear Energy, Fossil Energy, and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 32). The National Nuclear Security Administration would be split off into a separate stand-alone agency, but it has remained unclear where EM and LM would fit. The merger was proposed in a white paper developed by White House Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Jeffrey Zients, and is likely to begin being more widely floated if John Bryson, the Obama Administration’s nominee to be the next Secretary of Commerce, is confirmed by the Senate.

Chu Highlights Successes

In his message, Chu highlighted several successes of DOE’s cleanup program under Triay’s tenure, such as EM’s largely successful implementation of the \$6 billion it received in Recovery Act funding. “As the EM Recovery Act funding draws to a close, the program has already reduced its footprint nationwide by 464 square miles, 50 percent of the total amount to be cleaned up under the program. To put this in perspective, that is roughly 20 times the size of Manhattan,” Chu said. He also cited the

start of operations at the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion plants at DOE’s Portsmouth and Paducah sites and the complete removal of transuranic waste from 19 sites. “At this point, 95 percent of the EM capital asset projects are on track for both cost and schedule,” Chu said, adding, “These are extraordinary accomplishments that truly benefit our nation. We are all very proud of the challenging and important work completed under Dr. Triay’s leadership.”

—Mike Nartker

WHITE HOUSE QUESTIONS PROPOSED FY12 FUNDING CUT FOR DOE CLEANUP

*House Energy Spending Bill
To Undergo Debate Next Week*

The White House this week criticized a proposed significant funding cut for the Department of Energy’s cleanup program included in the House Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. In a Statement of Administration Policy, the White House said the proposed cut of \$500 million from DOE’s budget request “may affect DOE’s ability to meet its goals for cleaning up legacy waste from its nuclear programs.” The Obama Administration also questioned proposed funding cuts included in the bill for National Nuclear Security Administration programs, as well as included funding to continue the license application process for the Yucca Mountain high-level waste repository—a project the Administration is working to cancel against heavy opposition from Republican lawmakers. While the White House did not threaten to outright veto the legislation, it did say, “the Administration has concerns regarding the level of resources the bill would provide for a number of programs in a way that undermines core government functions, investments key to economic growth and job creation, as well as national security.”

Bill Heads to House Floor

The House energy spending bill, set to undergo debate on the House floor next week, would provide a total of \$5.6 billion for DOE’s cleanup program, down from the \$6.1 billion the Department had sought in its request (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 30). The bill rejects several funding increases DOE had sought for specific cleanup sites and projects, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant. In addition, the bill would provide less than DOE had requested for cleanup work at Oak Ridge and the Savannah River Site. However, the bill would provide a slight boost in funding for cleanup work at Hanford overseen by DOE’s Richland Operations Office and would match DOE’s request for cleanup funding for the Idaho site.

To date, DOE's Office of Environmental Management has largely declined to comment on the potential regulatory compliance impacts of the level of funding included in the House bill. "We will definitely work together with the stakeholders, but also with the regulators, to make sure they weigh in when it comes to the compliance portfolio of the Environmental Management program. Once that conversation and [those] sessions occur with the regulators, we'll have a better idea of the things that will not be able to be met given a \$5.6 billion budget," Assistant Energy Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay told a meeting of the Energy Facility Contractors Group last month. "All of our field managers are focused on trying to make sure that any compliance issues that can be addressed with the monies that the House mark has can actually be addressed [and] that any issues that can be addressed with the Recovery Act savings in different places in the country are also addressed in that manner," she said.

—Mike Nartker

WVES COMES UP SHORT IN MEETING MILESTONES AT WEST VALLEY

More Than \$8 Million in Fee at Risk

West Valley Environmental Services, the outgoing cleanup contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project, failed to fully meet a set of fee-bearing performance milestones by the scheduled end of its contract on June 30. As a result, the contractor may be at risk of losing out on up to \$8.3 million in fee, though the Department of Energy is still conducting its fee determination evaluation. "Under the PBI [performance-based incentive], if all milestones were not complete, then the amount of payment would be at the discretion of the fee determination official," DOE West Valley Director Bryan Bower told *WC Monitor* this week.

Work More Difficult Than Anticipated

The milestones WVES failed to fully meet center on decontamination work at the West Valley's Main Plant Process Building and processing of remote-handled transuranic waste, according to Bower. As an example of the challenges WVES faced in preparing the Main Plant for demolition, he said, "Last year, when we were doing work in the Off-Gas Cell, we anticipated that scabbling the concrete in the Off-Gas Cell would have gotten the dose rate to a low enough point that we could do the manned entries. Actually, as we were scabbling, the dose rates were not coming down, so they found that the contamination was embedded in the concrete. So they had to completely change their approach for dealing with that contamination and instead of scabbling the concrete, remotely or using long-reach tooling installed a shield wall."

DOE also had limited data on the condition of the Main Plant prior to starting work, Bower said. "We had some probes that we were able to put in to do some characterization before contract award and shortly after contract award, but actually sending people into those areas to get the actual hands-on measurements had been the first time some of those cells had been entered in decades," he said. Bower attributed WVES's failure to fully complete required remote-handled transuranic waste processing, in part, to "equipment failures," noting, "When there are equipment failures, then you're down until the equipment can be brought back up to be used. So there are a lot of challenges associated with doing the remote processing—using remote saws, remote sheers. [There are] a number of challenges associated with maintaining that tooling and being able to do that work. We encountered our share of challenges with that, as well." WVES plans to fully complete its remaining milestones by the time West Valley's new cleanup contractor, CH2MB&W West Valley, LLC (CHBWV), takes over at the site, currently scheduled for early September, according to Keith Wood, a spokesman for URS, the lead company in WVES (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 32).

'I Would Like to Focus on the Positives'

The fee-bearing milestones were included in a contract modification DOE reached with WVES last year that reduced the contractor's workscope in response to funding issues and cost overruns experienced in recent years (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 47). While WVES did not fully meet the milestones, Bower stressed that the contractor completed "a substantial amount" of them. "They were able to accomplish a significant amount of work with the completion of the processing of the contact-handled transuranic waste and the low-level waste. Also, they got the tank and vault drying system installed. They installed the permeable treatment wall for the North Plateau groundwater plume. [They] accomplished a significant amount of decontamination in the Main Plant Process Building and also a substantial amount of RH [remote-handled transuranic waste] processing," he said.

When asked if DOE was pleased with the overall performance of WVES, which has been the West Valley cleanup contractor since 2007, Bower responded, "I would like to focus on the positives of the contract," saying that there had been "very substantial accomplishments" over the past four years. "If we focus on the positives during the past four years, we were able to get the cover put on the NRC-licensed disposal area, we were able to address the North Plateau groundwater plume, which has been a concern to the local community for a number of years; we've been able to install a tank and vault drying system, which is performing very well, currently exceeding our expecta-

tions, and once we get the high-level waste tanks dry we will not have a concern about any ... leaks from the waste tank farm,” he said, adding, “We’ve processed all of the contact-handled transuranic waste. We’ve processed the low-level waste. Using buyback scope, we’ve been able to resume shipping the low-level waste, which is a very positive development.”

Bower declined to comment, though, as to how much work CHBWW will have to perform to have the Main Plant fully ready for demolition. “We’ve just awarded the contract. CHBWW is just getting onto the site. So at this point in time, we would prefer that we not answer that question. We’re still early in the process,” he said. Bower also deferred on what lessons the new West Valley cleanup contractor could learn from WVES’s experience at the site. “I really haven’t thought through that one,” he said. “Maybe the best way to answer is that’s a question CHBWW should be asking of WVES.”

—Mike Nartker

DOE FALLS BEHIND SCHEDULE TO COMPLETE NICKEL SALE

Department In Midst of Broader Discussion on Scrap Metal Reuse

Almost a year after bids were due to purchase the Department of Energy’s stockpiles of contaminated nickel at the Oak Ridge and Paducah sites, DOE has yet to make a decision on the sale, which appears to be caught up in a broader re-examination of its current policies concerning the reuse of scrap metals. Only one company—Toxco—is believed to have bid on the Oak Ridge and Paducah nickel, and DOE had planned to complete the procurement in the April-May-June 2011 time frame. It now remains unclear when the sale will be completed, and DOE’s Office of Environmental Management has largely declined to comment on the issue, citing the ongoing procurement.

The current nickel sale involves more than 15,000 tons of material, including 5,600 tons of shredded nickel scrap currently stored at Oak Ridge’s East Tennessee Technology Park and approximately 9,700 tons of nickel ingots stored at the Paducah site. The material is “volumetrically contaminated” with uranium, as well as “trace” quantities of plutonium, technetium and neptunium, according to DOE. While Department policies prohibit the unrestricted release of volumetrically contaminated metal into general commerce and the recycling of scrap metal from DOE radiological areas into general commerce, the Oak Ridge and Paducah nickel was being sold to undergo declassification and decontamination for use in radiologically controlled applications. DOE released a Request for Proposals for the Oak Ridge and Paducah nickel in mid-May 2010,

and bids were due by July 28, 2010 (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 Nos. 22&23).

Recycling Being Considered for Portsmouth D&D

Along with the nickel at Oak Ridge and Paducah, DOE is expected to generate a significant amount of scrap metal during decommissioning of a former uranium enrichment plant at the Portsmouth site in Ohio—a multi-year project that is now underway. DOE officials have previously said that recycling of scrap metals generated during D&D work at Portsmouth is being considered to help reduce waste disposal needs and to help provide jobs in the local community near the site (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 24). According to DOE officials, the Department has begun examining technologies that could allow for greater reuse of such scrap and thereby increase its value. The Department appears to be wary of making a decision on a path forward for the nickel at Paducah and Oak Ridge, covered by the ongoing procurement, before exploring potentially more lucrative options that could address the entire current and future stockpile of such material.

In a written response late last month, an EM spokeswoman said, “Regarding the potential nickel inventories at Portsmouth that may be recovered from the D&D at that site, the contractor is in the early stages of evaluating options for the management of that material consistent with the Portsmouth D&D contract. Given these discussions are in the formative stages it is premature to discuss those deliberations at this time.”

Toxco Still Awaiting Decision

In the meantime, however, Toxco is still awaiting a final decision on its bid to purchase the Oak Ridge and Paducah nickel—material that DOE has sought for years to sell. The company requested a meeting this spring with DOE concerning the sale, but was rejected in late May, according to David Eaker, a former Toxco executive who now serves as a consultant on the company’s nickel bid. “We are disappointed that we were not given an opportunity to meet with them,” Eaker said in a written response to *WC Monitor*. “Toxco remains extremely interested in the DOE procurement and we are ready to enter into an agreement with DOE to fulfill their requirements and our offer. We feel that our offer is in total alignment with the energy directives of the United States energy needs, DOE Directives, and the DOE procurement requirements.”

He added, “Our proposal ensures that the DOE nickel material will always remain under the control of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and will not be allowed to enter the commercial metal market. We are anxious to implement our proposal to help resolve a number of U.S.

energy storage requirements relating to renewable energy in order to decrease our dependence on foreign energy imports.”

—Mike Nartker

WASH. CLOSURE ANNOUNCES NEW INTERIM MGMT. CHANGES

Acting President, Deputy PM Named

Carol Johnson has been tapped to lead Washington Closure Hanford in an acting capacity, effective July 8. Johnson, who serves as WCH closure director, will be replacing retiring President and Project Manager Neil Brosee “while we await [Department of Energy] approval of the permanent candidate,” Brosee said in a brief message sent to employees late last week. Prior to coming to Washington Closure, responsible for completing the cleanup of the river corridor at Hanford, Johnson served as executive director for infrastructure at the Sellafield site in the United Kingdom. She has also held positions at the Savannah River Site and Idaho and Los Alamos national laboratories, according to Washington Closure.

WCH Waste Operations Director Bruce Covert has been designated as acting Deputy Project Manager to replace Ryan Dodd, who is set to head to the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York state to lead the site’s new cleanup contractor, CH2MB&W West Valley, LLC (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 32). Dodd had previously been announced to replace Brosee before the new West Valley cleanup contract was awarded.

—Mike Nartker

DOE TO INVESTIGATE WORKER FALL AT SAVANNAH RIVER

SRNS Employee Remains

Hospitalized After July 1 Accident

The Department of Energy plans to open an investigation into an accident that occurred late last week at the Savannah River Site that has left a worker hospitalized after falling from a scaffold. The construction worker, employed by Savannah River managing contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, suffered injuries to his head and ribs as a result of the July 1 accident, according to officials. “Our prayers and thoughts are with the SRNS employee and his family,” Jim Giusti, a spokesman for the DOE Savannah River Operations Office, said in a written response. “DOE will conduct an investigation into the cause of the accident. At this time we are awaiting appointment of investigation team members.” In a separate statement, SRNS President and CEO Garry Flowers said, “We are concerned any time a co-worker is injured. We are focused on

ensuring that he is receiving proper care and attention and that the needs of his family are being met while he is in treatment.”

The accident occurred as the worker was involved in removing drywall from Savannah River’s 105-K Reactor Building, according to SRNS. At the time of the accident, the worker was on a mobile 12-foot scaffold, though his exact position is unknown, according to contractor spokeswoman Barbara Smoak. “We don’t know if he fell from the very top, if he was descending or ascending,” she said. According to SRNS, there were seven construction workers in the area when the accident occurred. SRNS has declined to identify the injured employee, though the company did say he was “an experienced worker at SRNS and was not new to the site.” The cause of the accident is under investigation. “SRNS is working aggressively to determine the cause of the accident and is in the initial fact finding stage of the investigation. No initial determination of the cause has been identified at this time,” Smoak said in a written response late this week. “SRNS will work to provide DOE investigators with all of the information available to assist in their investigation.”

In response to “recent injuries involving ladders and scaffolding,” SRNS has restricted the use of mobile scaffolds such as those involved in the July 1 accident and has placed “specific precautions on elevated work,” Smoak said. “No Tele-Tower equipment or mobile scaffolding (e.g. scaffolding with wheels) may be used to perform work until further SRSOC notification is provided,” she said. “All other 8Q Procedure 16 equipment (such as fixed ladders, fixed scaffolding, man-lifts, extension ladders) will be released for use after required 8Q pre-use inspections are conducted. For work crews accessing ladders, a pre-job brief must include review of 8Q, Procedure 16, *Ladders and Scaffold Safety Requirements*.”

—Mike Nartker

EFFORTS TO RESUME D&D AT SPRU MOVING FORWARD

The Department of Energy is moving forward with preparations to resume active D&D work at the Separations Process Research Unit site that was suspended following a set of contamination incidents last fall. In late June, work began on the enclosures in which the remaining facility D&D work will be performed, with construction expected to take six-to-eight weeks to complete, according to a DOE official. Also last month, DOE submitted an application for the second of three required regulatory permits, with one application submitted in late May and the third to be submitted this month, the official said. DOE is on track to

fully resume D&D work at the SPRU site by the end of August (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 Nos. 26&27), the DOE official said, adding, “We don’t want to get ahead of ourselves. We want to make sure we do everything properly.”

D&D efforts at the SPRU site, located at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in New York state, center on two remaining facilities—Building H2, a former waste treatment facility; and Building G2, a process research and office building. The contamination incidents that disrupted work occurred between late September and late October 2010 while URS was performing open air demolition activities at Building H2, and resulted in the spread of low levels of contamination to the broader Knolls site and to a local river. A subsequent DOE investigation attributed the cause of the incidents to project contractor URS’s failure to “fully understand, characterize, and control the radiological hazard” and “to implement a work control process that ensured facility conditions supported proceeding with the work.” The incidents also prompted investigations by federal and New York state environmental regulators, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s investigation still ongoing (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 31).

—Mike Nartker

USEC FACES LAWSUIT OVER TRANSITION OF WORKERS TO PORTSMOUTH D&D

USEC has been hit with a lawsuit over the transition of its workers to the D&D project now underway at the Portsmouth uranium enrichment plant. The suit alleges that the transition of workers to Fluor-B&W Portsmouth, LLC (FBP), represents an involuntary layoff, and therefore those impacted workers are owed severance pay by USEC as required under the company’s benefits plan. “Defendants have failed to make severance payments to entitled class members even though the class members were terminated because of an Involuntary Reduction in Force. Further, Defendants have declared that they will not make severance payments to other class members, who will transition to Fluor in the very near future,” the lawsuit states. The suit was filed in late June in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. In a written response late this week, USEC spokesman Jeremy Derryberry said, “As a matter of policy, we do not comment on litigation. We believe that we have complied with all legal and contractual requirements governing the transition of work from USEC to DOE’s D&D contractor.

USEC is currently in the midst of transitioning workers, and the bulk of the facilities at the Portsmouth site, to the D&D project being conducted by DOE. Last August, FBP

won a 10-year, \$2 billion contract to decommission the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which had been operated by USEC. Early this year, FBP announced plans to hire a total of 1,600 employees for the Portsmouth D&D project, including all non-managerial, salaried employees identified by USEC as at-risk (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 Nos. 4&5). The lawsuit claims, though, that the “former and current USEC employees ... are, and will be, employed under materially different terms and conditions than those which they enjoyed at USEC.”

The lawsuit also alleges that USEC intentionally tried to circumvent requirements to pay severance pay to those workers being transitioned over to the Portsmouth D&D project by having them sign letters of resignation. “Upon information and belief, Defendants instructed their Human Resources employees to misrepresent to class members the status of their benefits by holding meetings to convince class members to draft and sign resignation letters in order to circumvent payment of severance under the Plan,” the suit says, adding that “Defendants have even threatened to withhold certain benefits, including vacation pay, until class members return signed letters of resignation.” The suit seeks the creation of a fund for USEC to deposit owed severance pay, as well as “equitable relief” and attorneys’ fees and costs. In addition, the suit asks the court to appoint “an independent fiduciary,” at USEC’s expense, with authority over the management and administration of the company’s Employee Termination of Employment Plan.

—Mike Nartker

DOE BEGINS SELECTING FIRMS FOR MATERIALS DISPOSITION WORK

The Department of Energy has begun naming companies that will be able to compete for work under its Materials Disposition Basic Order Agreement. DOE spokesman Michael Koentop told *WC Monitor* that IMPACT-Navarro was notified of its award this week, and that EnergySolutions and Toxco, Inc. have also each received awards that will allow them to compete for task orders under the BOA. Bids for the “initial set of awards” were due by March 22, though DOE said that proposals would continue to be accepted for one year from the release of the Feb. 18 solicitation.

According to the solicitation, “DOE has an indefinite amount of radioactive and potentially radioactive material, scrap metal and equipment that needs to be recycled, reused or buried as waste. The material is in the form of small to large pieces of metal, structural steel and other materials such as concrete, equipment and vehicles. The

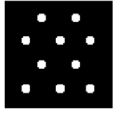
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E. Frank Di Sanza, *Federal Projects
Director, Waste Management Project,
Nevada Site Office, U.S. DOE*

Scott Wade, *Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management, Nevada Site
Office, U.S. DOE*

Linda Suttora, *Office of Compliance, U.S.
DOE-EM*

Partnering Organizations (as of 6/30/2011)...

Media Partner...



— THE FIFTH ANNUAL RADWASTE SUMMIT —

AGENDA (Draft)

Tuesday, September 6

1:00 EFCOG WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (*Andalucia Room*)

3:00 REGISTRATION OPENS
SUMMIT SUPPORT MATERIALS
*Partners...
Cabrera Services*

6:00 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

7:00 OPENING DINNER

Wednesday, September 7

Today Recognizing...

PermaFix Environmental Services

7:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 WELCOME/INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Edward L. Helminski, President
EM Publications & Forums
Summit Chair

Martin Schneider, Vice President
EM Publications & Forums
Technical Program Chair

8:05 OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

William Magwood, Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

OPEN DISCUSSION

8:50 A New Landscape for Disposal, New Opportunities for Federal and Commercial Waste

Val Christensen, President
EnergySolutions

Rod Baltzer, President
Waste Control Specialists

OPEN DISCUSSION

9:35 The Generators: Navigating a Changing Disposal Marketplace and Regulatory Regime

Christine Gelles, Director
Office of Disposal Operations
U.S. DOE-EM

Ralph Andersen, Senior Director
Radiation Safety & Environmental
Protection, Nuclear Energy Institute

OPEN DISCUSSION

10:20 COFFEE BREAK

10:40 Utilities Respond to the Changing Paradigm for RadWaste Management

Graham Johnson
Supervising Scientist
Duke Energy

Mark L. Carver
Manager, Fleet Radwaste
Entergy Services, Inc.

Lisa Edwards
LLRW Program Manager
Electric Power Research Institute

11:40 Putting in Place the State, Federal and International Framework for Waste Management

Ruth McBurney, Executive Director
Conference of Radiation Control Program
Directors

Gerard Bruno, Waste Safety Section
International Atomic Energy Agency

12:30 LUNCH

1:30 Federal Low-Level Waste Regulatory Initiatives

...At NRC

Larry Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management &
Environmental Protection, U.S. NRC

...DOE's 435.1 Review

Linda Suttora
Office of Compliance
U.S. DOE-EM

OPEN DISCUSSION

2:30 International Perspectives: Supporting the Safety Case for Waste Disposal

...Safety Arguments Supporting the Disposal of Low and Intermediate Level Waste

Kazumasa Hioki, Leader
Knowledge Management Group,
Geological Isolation Research and
Development Directorate,
Japan Atomic Energy Agency

...Recent Developments LLW Management in the UK

Richard Cummings
Low Level Waste Repository, Ltd.

...Options Considered for Disposal of Radioactive Waste from the Chernobyl Accident

Tetiana Kilochytska
State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate
of Ukraine

3:40 COFFEE BREAK

4:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Period of Performance in NRC's Disposal Regulations

DISCUSSION LEADER: **Ruth McBurney**, Executive Director
Conference of Radiation Control Program
Directors

Rusty Lundberg, Executive Director
Utah Radiation Control Board

Thomas E. Magette, Senior Vice
President, EnergySolutions

Bill Dornsife
Waste Control Specialists

Linda Suttora
Office of Compliance
U.S. DOE-EM

Larry Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management &
Environmental Protection, U.S. NRC

5:15 ADJOURN

5:30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Thursday, September 8

Today Recognizing...

Waste Control Specialists

7:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00 The Future of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant: A New Mexico Perspective

David Martin, Secretary
New Mexico Environment
Department

8:45 Greater-Than-Class-C Waste: Moving Closer to a Preferred Disposal Alternative?

DOE Speaker TBD

...Is an NRC License Needed?

NRC Speaker TBD

— The Changing Paradigm for LLRW Management... —

9:15 **Optimizing Transuranic Waste Disposal at WIPP (Part I)**

Farok Sharif, President
Washington TRU Solutions

Christine Gelles, Director
Office of Disposal Operations
U.S. DOE-EM

DOE TRU Program Speaker TBD

OPEN DISCUSSION

10:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 **Optimizing Transuranic Waste Disposal at WIPP (Part II)**

Larry Romine, Federal Project Director
Solid Waste Stabilization & Disposition,
Richland Operations Office, U.S.-DOE

John Ciucci, Chief Operating Officer,
CH2M Hill Plateau REmediation
Company

John Gilmour
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Renee Echols, Vice President
PermaFix Environmental Services

OPEN DISCUSSION

11:30 **A LOW-LEVEL WASTE FORUM SESSION: Importance of the Policy Act to Waste Management Activities and Other Emerging LLRW Issues**

MODERATOR: **Leonard Slosky**, Chair,
LLW Forum; Executive Director, Rocky
Mountain LLW Board

Rusty Lundberg, Executive Director
Utah Radiation Control Board

Susan Jablonski, Director, Radioactive
Materials Division, Texas Commission
on Environmental Quality

Mike Mobley, Chairman
Southeast Compact

Mike Garner, Executive Director
Northwest Compact

OPEN DISCUSSION

12:30 **LUNCH**

1:30 **The Future of Disposal at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site**

...NNS Site-Wide EIS Update

Scott Wade, Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management,
Nevada Site Office, U.S. DOE

...Transportation Routes and Rail/Truck Transfers Documented in the SWEIS

E. Frank Di Sanza, Federal Project
Director, Waste Management Project
Nevada Site Office, U.S. DOE

...FY 2011 Forecast/Actual Volumes and FY 2012-2015 Forecasts

Jhon Carilli
Waste Management Division, Nevada
Site Office, U.S. DOE

...NNS Disposal Operations

John Wrapp, Program Manager
NSTec

...The State Perspective

Tim Murphy, Chief, Federal
Facilities Branch, Nevada Department
of Environmental Protection

OPEN DISCUSSION

3:00 **Department of Defense Waste Issues: Depleted Uranium and Beyond**

Greg Komp
Chief Health Physicist
U.S. Army

OPEN DISCUSSION

3:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

3:50 **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Progress at FUSRAP Sites**

Sharron DaCosta-Chisley, National
FUSRAP Program Manager, U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers

...Status of the Sylvania Corning Plant: Lessons Learned

Ann Ewy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

...Soil Segregation at the Painesville FUSRAP Site

Stephen Buechi
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

...FUSRAP Use of Lidded Rail Cars in the St. Louis District

Jonathan Rankins
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

OPEN DISCUSSION

4:45 **Addressing Waste Challenges At USACE**

...Depleted Uranium at the Iowa Ammunition Plant

Jonathan Rankins
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

...Navigating NRC License Suspension at the Shallow Land Disposal Area Site

William Frederick
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

...Cleanup and Disposal of Radium from Historical Uses

Hans Honerlah
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

OPEN DISCUSSION

5:45 **ADJOURN**

5:45 **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Friday, September 9

7:00 **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

8:00 **NNSA's Waste Management Challenge: The Disposition of Legacy Components from Warhead Dismantlements**

Speakers from NNSA, Sandia National Lab and NNS TBD

OPEN DISCUSSION

9:15 **Waste Disposal in Texas: Challenges and Opportunities**

John White, Vice Chairman
Texas Compact Commission

Susan Jablonski, Director, Radioactive
Materials Division, Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality

Dan Burns, Senior Vice President-
Planning and Business Development,
Waste Control Specialists

10:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 **Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Conversion – An Update from the Portsmouth and Paducah Plants**

George Dials, President
B&W Conversion Services

OPEN DISCUSSION

11:00 **DOE Waste Management Priorities Amidst Shrinking Budgets**

Christine Gelles, Director
Office of Disposal Operations
U.S. DOE-EM

...Implementing DOE's Long-Term Strategic Plan for the Cleanup Program

Jay Rhoderick, Director
Large Site Support, U.S. DOE-EM

OPEN DISCUSSION

12:00 **ADJOURN**

— *AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER & EXHIBIT* —

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Exhibit Fee:	VERY SMALL COMPANIES (30 or Fewer Employees) \$1,295	SMALL COMPANIES (31-100 Employees) \$1,595	LARGE COMPANIES (Over 100 Employees) \$1,995
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— *Past Attending Organizations* —

Advocates for Responsible Disposal in TX
AECOM
Alaron Nuclear Services
American Ecology Corporation
American Veteran Environmental Services
Andrews Engineering, Inc.
AREVA Federal Services LLC
Argonne National Laboratory
ATL International Inc.
Atlantic Compact Commission
Australian Embassy
B&W Technical Services Group
B&W Y-12 Technical Services, LLC
Babcock Services, Inc.
Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC
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Bechtel National, Inc.
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CDM
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CH2M Hill
CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC
Chase Environmental Group, Inc.
Chesapeake Nuclear Services, Inc.
Clean Harbors Environmental Services
Columbiana Hi Tech
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Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited
Korea Radioactive Waste Mgmt. Corp.
Kurion, Inc.
Longenecker & Associates
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos National Security
Los Alamos Technical Associates
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc.
LVI Services Inc.
M&EC/Waste Support Services
M2 Polymer Technologies, Inc.
MA Radiation Control Program
MACTEC
Major Tool & Machine, Inc.
Maryland Institute
MELE Associates, Inc.
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Morehouse School of Medicine
National Nuclear Security Administration
National Security Technologies, LLC
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Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Pacific Gas & Electric
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
PacTec, Inc.
Pajarito Scientific Corporation
PaR Systems/Environmental
Perma-Fix Environmental Services, Inc.
Philotechnics, Ltd.
PIKA International, Inc.
Powertech (USA) Inc.
Princeton Plasma Physics laboratory
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SAIC
Sandia National Laboratories
Savannah River National Laboratory
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC
Savannah River Remediation LLC
SC&A, Inc.
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Southwest Research Institute
Sparton Resources Inc.
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Wedbush Securities
West Valley Environmental Services
Westinghouse Electric Company
WMG Inc
WorleyParsons Polestar, Inc.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rates to attend the Summit at JW Marriott, Las Vegas (Summerlin), which is near the DOE office are **\$159.00 for single and double occupancy. Government rates are available at \$93.00** for single and double occupancy. These rates do not include a daily hotel services fee, along with applicable city and state taxes (which are currently 12%). **If you are a government employee, you must have a government identification card.**

To register for the conference and book a hotel room, please visit www.radwastesummit.com. To guarantee a room reservation at conference rates, make your reservation by **August 19**. If space is available, the above rates will apply for attendees two days prior and two days after our program dates. **We recommend making your reservations EARLY to secure a guest room.**

JW MARRIOTT LAS VEGAS (SUMMERLIN)

The JW Marriott Las Vegas is an elegant hotel in Summerlin, Nevada just outside of downtown Las Vegas. The hotel is set against the crimson canyons and rugged cliffs of Red Rock and is home to premiere conference facilities that feature a full service business center that provides uncompromising levels of service and amenities. After a busy day of meetings one can just relax and enjoy the natural beauty, play a round of golf or visit the nearby Red Rock Canyon which provides breathtaking hikes, mountain climbing or biking opportunities.

Registration opens at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6 followed by a Reception and Dinner at 6:00 p.m. The opening Plenary is at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 7. The Summit ends at noon, Friday, Sept. 9.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL RADWASTE SUMMIT

September 6 - 9, 2011

JW Marriott Las Vegas

Summerlin, Nevada

Registration Fees:

Federal Employees (non-speakers):	CIRCLE ONE	\$525.00
State & Local Government Officials,		
NGO Representatives:		\$525.00
General Admission (<i>prior to Aug. 12</i>)		\$995.00
[includes Federal Contractors]		

(Add \$200 to Gen. Adm. Fee after Aug. 12; Discounted Fees for Multiple Registrations available)

(Registration includes: three continental breakfasts, two lunches, three receptions, two dinners, a copy of the Resource Book and conference proceedings.) Call 1-877-303-7367 for more information.

Cancellation Policy: There is a \$200.00 service charge on cancellations after **August 22, 2011**. No refunds will be made after **August 29, 2011** but substitutions are welcome.

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL RADWASTE SUMMIT

(WEBSITE: www.radwastesummit.com)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

No regular shuttle service is available from any of the Airports.

From McCarran International Airport: Take Interstate 15 North to Expressway 95 North (Reno). Take Summerlin Parkway exit West. Take Rampart exit and make a left onto Rampart Boulevard. Take a right turn into the resort.

The hotel does offer a return trip to the airport for \$25.00

Estimated taxi fare: 50.00 (one way).

materials are in scrap piles (inside and outside locations), stored in containers and/or may be located within underutilized or abandoned facilities. In some cases the materials may be attached and/or part of the building in which they are located.” DOE plans to issue firm-fixed price offers for treatment, transportation and disposal of the material—some of which DOE believes to have commercial value and is therefore not considered waste.

—Sarah Anderson

DOE COMPLETES CLEANUP OF TWO SMALL SITES

Small Amounts of TRU Waste Removed From Sites Last Month

The Department of Energy announced late last week that it had completed cleanup work at two sites through the removal of small quantities of transuranic waste. On June 24, DOE shipped out 18 cubic meters of contact-handled transuranic waste, contained in 87 steel drums, from the Nuclear Radiation Development, LLC (NRD) site near

Grand Island in New York state. On June 3, one shipment of contact-handled waste was removed from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. The transuranic waste from both sites was sent to Idaho’s Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project for characterization prior to disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

The two sites are the 18th and 19th DOE sites to be emptied of legacy transuranic waste. The work was carried out with a portion of the \$172 million in Recovery Act funds allocated to help accelerate legacy transuranic waste cleanup work across the DOE complex. “Cleanup of these two sites represents important and continued progress in the Department of Energy’s commitment to reducing the nation’s nuclear waste footprint,” Assistant Energy Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay said in a July 1 release. Thanks to the Recovery Act investment, we were able to achieve these goals and save taxpayer money over the long term.”

—Mike Nartker

At the DOE Operations Offices/Facilities

AT RIVER PROTECTION WORKERS FINISH INSTALLATION OF MOBILE ARM

Hanford workers have finished installing the major components of the new Mobile Arm Retrieval System into a waste tank for the first time. MARS is expected to be ready to start retrieving radioactive waste from Tank C-107 in mid-September. If it works as expected, it will be “totally a game changer,” said Scott Sax, manager of single-shell tank retrieval and closure for Washington River Protection Solutions, the site’s tank farms contractor. Getting waste out of Hanford’s enclosed, underground tanks through 12-inch risers has been a challenge. Multiple technologies have been needed to retrieve waste from many of the tanks worked on so far, particularly as retrieval gets to the hard heel at a tank’s bottom. Hanford officials are expecting MARS to operate more quickly and efficiently, tackling not only the bulk of waste but also the difficult waste at the bottom of tanks.

It’s by far the largest retrieval technology inserted into an underground tank and required a 55-inch hole to be cut into Tank C-107 to install a 42-inch riser. The new riser was installed in December, and tank farm workers installed MARS in pieces through the riser just before and after the July 4th holiday weekend. First the 25-foot mast and robotic arm were installed and then workers put in the waste pump, the hose support and then the final shielding block. “The job went perfect,” Sax said. “There was no contamination, no radiation spread.” Workers had com-

pleted a dry run at Columbia Energy and Environmental Services to practice in a nonradioactive environment. The company managed development of the robotic arm’s design. The mast, which is inserted from the top of the tank to its bottom, has a carriage that can be raised or lowered to position a telescoping arm that can rotate 360 degrees. When it unfolds and lengthens, it can reach 40 feet total. Not only does it have an “elbow” midway to make it more flexible, but the “wrist” above the collection of the tools it holds also can move.

The sluicing tools on the MARS that will be used in Tank C-107 include a water cannon, high pressure nozzles and fan nozzles, each adding options to break up waste or sweep it toward a pump at the bottom of the mast. In testing, the robotic arm has been able to break up and move substances that mimic the three types of tank waste that give Hanford workers trouble. Tanks may have sludge the consistency of peanut butter, a heavy sand- or gravel-like material and a hard layer of waste, comparable to low-strength concrete, that has to be broken up. Tank C-107 has about 267,000 gallons of radioactive waste, which is expected to include sludge and a bottom layer of hard, gravel-like material. The next two months will be spent testing and training on MARS before waste retrieval starts at Tank C-107. “Ecology looks forward to seeing how this technology performs,” said Dieter Bohrmann,

spokesman for the Washington State Department of Ecology. "Innovative technology development, such as

MARS, is going to be important as retrieval continues for years to come."

AT RICHLAND WCH TO CUT UP TO 210 JOBS NEXT YEAR

Steps toward laying off workers continued at Hanford this week with Washington Closure Hanford announcing it would cut up to 210 jobs in Fiscal Year 2012 and Mission Support Alliance approving 55 voluntary layoffs. Washington Closure last month told its employees about its general plans to reduce jobs as river corridor cleanup is completed, but waited until the Department of Energy approved its workforce restructuring plan last week to announce the number of jobs to be cut in the first round by Washington Closure and its prime contractor, Eberline Services. Together they employ about 900 workers. "This is all due to work coming to an end, not funding limitations," said Todd Nelson, Washington Closure spokesman.

Washington Closure has DOE's first and only closure contract at Hanford. When it expires Sept. 30, 2015, DOE expects most river corridor cleanup to be complete and there will be no need to rebid the contract and roll most workers over to a new company, as usually happens when Hanford's environmental cleanup contracts expire. The end of the contract will require a gradual ramp down of work as different projects are completed over four years. Washington Closure will offer a chance annually for employees to volunteer for layoffs before making involuntary staff reductions. The voluntary layoffs will be limited to employees performing certain jobs to make sure Washington Closure retains the right mix of skills to finish cleanup. More details, including the job classifications eligible for voluntary layoffs, should be available in the coming weeks. Laid off employees may receive severance payments and may be eligible for medical coverage under the DOE program for displaced workers.

Washington Closure is about six years into a 10-year contract worth \$2.3 billion to clean up the 220 square miles of the river corridor. "Over the past six years we have made tremendous progress," Neil Brosee, retiring Washington Closure president, said in a message to employees. "We have completed the clean up of more than

200 waste sites on the Hanford Site, demolished 166 buildings and reduced the footprint of the site by approximately 60 square miles." About 75 percent of the work under the contract is completed, although Washington Closure still has some challenging work ahead.

MSA Can Layoff Up to 300 by Late September

The 55 voluntary layoffs announced by Mission Support Alliance are among as many as 1,775 Hanford job cuts during the current fiscal year, largely because of restructuring of workforces as federal economic stimulus spending ends. In March, Mission Support Alliance laid off 125 workers, including 68 who volunteered, and now is preparing for a second round of layoffs. The Department of Energy has given Mission Support Alliance permission to lay off up to 300 employees by Sept. 29, in addition to the previous 125 layoffs. Although Mission Support Alliance did not directly receive any of the \$1.96 billion in Recovery Act money for Hanford nuclear reservation work, it supported the ramp up of work. Most of the employees who volunteered in the latest round at Mission Support Alliance are expected to work until Sept. 29, although some have asked to leave sooner. The contractor has almost 2,000 employees. Most of the voluntary layoff requests were approved, with the exception of those for a few critical need positions, said Deanna Smith, Mission Support Alliance spokeswoman.

CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. also is laying off employees by Sept. 29. It received \$1.3 billion of Hanford's economic stimulus money. Last month, it notified 148 workers that their applications for voluntary layoffs had been accepted. The contractor has announced plans to lay off a total of 1,350 workers. Mission Support Alliance earlier announced it would offer employees two chances to volunteer for layoffs and CH2M Hill announced it would offer employees one chance to volunteer. All three self-selects now have been completed.

AT RICHLAND DOE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR CENTRAL AREA CLEANUP

The Department of Energy, with the Environmental Protection Agency, is preparing to make one of the first decisions on cleanup of waste sites in the approximately 10 square miles of central Hanford where permanent disposal of radioactive waste is planned. DOE has proposed plans for partially digging up four waste sites contaminated by

plutonium and other radionuclides and chemicals in the heart of Hanford at the 200-CW-5, 200-PW-1, 200-PW-3 and 200-PW-6 Operable Units. The units have french drains, soil cribs, tile fields, unlined trenches and areas of unplanned contaminant releases, such as spills and leaks. Unlike the remainder of Hanford, the 10-square-mile

Central Plateau Inner Area is being cleaned up only to industrial standards. The area includes landfills for disposal of radioactive and chemical waste and U Canyon, where rubble will be covered with a cap. It's also home to Hanford's 177 waste tanks that DOE is expected to grout in and leave in the ground when as much waste as possible is removed.

Initially, DOE was considering also leaving the four contaminated soil sites in the Central Plateau Inner Area and covering them with an engineered cap to prevent precipitation from driving contaminants deeper toward groundwater. That would be supplemented with a current vapor extraction system to clean up carbon tetrachloride in the soil and a groundwater pump-and-treat system under construction. But that was before hearing from the Hanford Advisory Board, state of Oregon and the tribes during initial discussions in 2008. Concerns were raised about leaving plutonium, in particular, in place because of its long half life. "We looked at it and saw benefits to removal," said Nick Ceto, DOE's recently retired Richland Operations Office record of decision program manager. "The question is how much to dig up," said Emerald Laija, Environmental Protection Agency scientist. Plutonium typically clings to the soil rather than easily spreading deeper, but some of the plutonium is considered "high salt" because it was mixed with nitric acid that can cause it to travel deep into the soil, possibly 100 feet in some cases.

Some Soil Likely Would Go to WIPP

Some of the excavated soil could be classified as low-level mixed waste and disposed of at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility nearby, but some of the excavated soil likely would be contaminated enough to be sent to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. That includes waste from the

200-CW-5 Operable Unit where soil was contaminated from cooling water and steam condensate from the Plutonium Finishing Plant complex. The cooling water was sent through a series of shallow open ditches from 1944 to 1995 to a pond. When one ditch would become too contaminated, another one would be dug alongside it. The trenches were about four to 6 feet deep, although the system includes a deeper tile field. DOE is proposing the contaminated soil be dug up and likely sent to ERDF. Cost is estimated at \$58 million.

The remaining three soil waste operable units all were used for disposing of processing waste water, including from the Plutonium and Uranium Extraction facility, or PUREX. For the low salt plutonium areas of the units, DOE is proposing digging down as much as 33 feet to remove a significant portion of the contamination and then capping the area. Cost would be \$81 million and the waste likely would be sent to WIPP. For high salt areas, DOE is proposing digging down deep enough to get to the disposal structures and then covering the excavated site with about 22 feet of clean soil and a cap. Cost would be about \$107 million. An area with primarily cesium-137, which has half life of about 30 years, would not be dug up, but soil would be added to make sure contamination is covered by at least 15 feet of clean soil to meet industrial use standards. Cost would be \$11 million.

In addition, some settling tanks would have sludge and liquid containing plutonium and americium removed and sent to WIPP. The tanks would be grouted in place for a project cost of \$40 million. An additional \$5 million would be spent to excavate pipelines. A final decision on remediation is expected by Sept. 30. Public meetings are planned July 19 in Richland, Wash., July 21 in Seattle, July 26 in Hood River, Ore., and July 27 in Portland, Ore.

AT RICHLAND CHPRC IDENTIFIES K BASINS SLUDGE TREATMENT

CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. is looking to use a process called warm water oxidation to treat the sludge removed from Hanford's K Basins for disposal, according to the Department of Energy. This month, the contractor is expected to submit to DOE a report on its selection of warm water oxidation as its preferred approach to prepare the K Basins sludge for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant after more than a year of evaluating various technologies, according to Tom Teynor, federal project director for K Basins closure. DOE will evaluate CHPRC's report, and then make a decision by March 2012 on whether or not to move forward with more testing for the warm water oxidation process to improve its maturity in preparation for actual use (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 22 No. 18). "We're aware of what they've done, but we want to see all the documentation [and] all their safety analyses. Basically

it's a second check—a second set of eyes. Even though we were part of observing their process on a daily basis, we want to take a step back and review it with a fresh set of eyes," Teynor told *WC Monitor* late last month.

Before the bulk of the approximately 29 cubic meters of K Basins sludge material can be shipped to WIPP for disposal, it has to be treated to address remaining uranium metal, which can pose hydrogen generation concerns by reacting with remaining moisture in the sludge. Explaining how the warm water oxidation approach works, Teynor said, "The water's not taken to a boiling point. It's about 200 degrees Fahrenheit ... and that's an optimal temperature where we bring the sludge up to that level and hold it there for a period of time. What that does is the metal oxidizes at a much quicker rate so that we'll be transport-

ing basically uranium oxides ... which mitigates the hydrogen gas generation problem. So we can transfer the material within the requirements of the Department of Transportation.”

CHPRC has also proposed two “enhancements” for the warm water oxidation approach, according to Teynor. One would be the addition of sodium nitrate to help interrupt the “water/metal reaction,” while the other is the use of a milling process to grind material down to increase its surface area and speed oxidation, he said. “This had the highest assurance of technology success. It was also probably lower cost than others,” Teynor said of the warm water oxidation approach. In addition, the process is more mature than some of the other ones considered, he said. “Warm water oxidation has been used elsewhere in the complex—not for sludges, but for other materials is my understanding.”

Looking to 2015

If DOE chooses next year to go forward with the warm water oxidation approach, years of additional testing are

planned to further mature the technology, Teynor said. “Once we get into the spring of next year—March 2012—is when we hope to have DOE’s final validation of [CHPRC’s] report. But also part of that March date of next year is we hope to have the testing program laid out to take the preferred technology and bench-scale it up for three years of testing, or if we can complete it sooner, we will,” he said. The testing will be intended to further develop the warm water oxidation approach to a technology readiness level 4 “which means that we’ve proven the concept, or concepts, work well at the laboratory bench-scale and therefore it validates you to go to the next phase, which is a technical readiness level 6, which means that it’s been tested in a like environment,” he said.

By March 2015, DOE hopes to be able to develop a rough cost estimate for the treatment approach, as well as propose sludge treatment and packaging milestones, Teynor said. “That’s in the future, and I’m a little cautious,” he said. “If we can accelerate the schedule safely, we will. But right now that’s just kind of the framework we’re setting for the future.”

AT RICHLAND TRIBES QUESTION LAND TRANSFER PROPOSAL

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation should get first right of refusal if Hanford lands are deemed to be no longer needed, according to the tribes. It outlined concerns in a letter to the Department of Energy in response to the Tri-City Development Council’s request in late May that DOE transfer 1,341 acres of Hanford land next to the Richland, Wash., city limits for economic development. TRIDEC, joined by the city of Richland, the Port of Benton and Benton County, wants the land to attract businesses to offset future Hanford staff reductions. While most land at Hanford is planned to be used for conservation and preservation, the acreage requested by TRIDEC is identified for future industrial use under the Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement. However, the Umatillas say the land use plan is not the “law of the land.” Instead, “Treaties are,” it said in a technical analysis of DOE land transfers sent to DOE with a letter from Leo Stewart, interim chairman of the confederated tribes board. The letter is a formal objection to the transfer or lease of any Hanford land that affects the ability of the confederated tribes to exercise treaty rights or that results in the loss of habitat or natural resources, he said.

The Umatillas have treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather on Hanford land and also are recognized as a trustee of natural resources at Hanford. The confederated tribes already have sacrificed the health of its traditional homelands so that Hanford could contribute to the security of the nation,

Stewart said. “Fisheries, village sites, cemeteries, traditional use areas and sacred sites are located throughout Hanford,” he said. He pointed out that Native Americans were living in villages along the Columbia River when white settlers arrived in the early 1800s. DOE has repeatedly assured the confederated tribes that Hanford lands will never transfer out of federal control, according to the technical analysis. “The CTUIR hopes that these were not merely words of convenience,” the analysis said.

If DOE does declare land excess, it is required to offer the land to other federal agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, according to the analysis. The confederated tribes already have proposed a field station for botanical and restoration research on the Hanford land requested by TRIDEC, but has been refused, according to the analysis. The land use plan EIS, which designated the parcel for industrial use, was poorly done, the tribes’ analysis said. It did not properly evaluate environmental consequences or environmental justice, the analysis said. The confederated tribes also are concerned that water-intensive development, such as industrial use and landscaping, is inappropriate for the parcel. “Whether new wells would be drilled or water purchased from the city of Richland, water use is a growing concern,” according to the confederated tribes analysis.

Land Could Aid Job Creation, TRIDEC Says

TRIDEC said in its proposal to DOE that the 1,341 acres it requested could support enterprises with 2,400 to 3,500 employees total. It already has had interest from an undisclosed international firm looking for a large site to purchase and invest \$2 billion in developing a plant, TRIDEC said. The 1,341 acres are in a portion of Hanford used primarily as a buffer area for production. Before World War II, it was used for farming, according to TR-

IDEC. DOE Hanford officials have 90 days to review the TRIDEC proposal and decide if transferring the land is in the government's best interest. DOE did not solicit the proposal and has contacted the Umatillas to address their concerns, said DOE spokesman Cameron Hardy this week. "We will continue to consult with the community and the tribes about the future use of Hanford land," he said. DOE wants to open discussion about how the region can make the transition to a healthy economy as Hanford environmental cleanup is completed, he said.

AT RICHLAND PNNL RECOVERING FROM CYBER ATTACK

Efforts were continuing late this week to restore full computer service at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory after it was hit with a sophisticated cyber attack July 1. Battelle's corporate offices and Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory in Virginia also were targeted. When PNNL discovered the attack it immediately shut down most internal network services, including email, SharePoint, the wireless network and access to the Internet, and it blocked those trying to contact the lab by email or connect to the lab's Web sites. PNNL staff worked through the holiday weekend to diagnose and fix the problem. Services gradually were restored through the week, although internet service and public access to the PNNL Web site

had yet to be restored late in the week. "Full access will only be restored once we are able to thoroughly diagnose what occurred and once we have added a security patch that will repel further attacks of this kind," said lab spokesman Greg Koller.

No classified information was compromised or was in danger from the attack, Koller said. PNNL successfully repels more than 4 million attacks on its external network each day, but the vast majority of these attacks are simple to detect and defend, he said. "This attack is much more sophisticated," he said.

AT OAK RIDGE DOE SIGNS PARTNERING AGREEMENT WITH UCOR

URS-CH2M Oak Ridge, LLC (UCOR), the new cleanup contractor for Oak Ridge, has signed a partnership agreement with the Department of Energy as part of a new initiative within the federal agency to better define working relationships and get the work done with fewer disputes. UCOR said the agreement, signed June 30, is the first to be signed before a contractor officially begins its work. UCOR is in the midst of transition and is not set to officially become DOE's environmental manager in Oak Ridge until Aug. 1. "This agreement captures, from the beginning, our commitment to work together for the good of this project and the Oak Ridge community. This is a very positive beginning to our work here, and I am looking forward to assuming management of ETTP on Aug. 1," contractor President Leo Sain said in a statement.

arrangement and expectations between the two parties and called it part of a new environmental management initiative across the DOE complex. The partnership will "significantly enhance" communication and cooperation between the contractor and the government, as well as establish a collaborative approach for early detection of problems, with "a proactive resolution process," according to DOE. There will be monthly and quarterly meetings to assess progress and revisions—as needed—on an annual basis. "[The] agreement is the first step to ensuring all the proper measures are taken to execute the scope of the contract safely, on budget, and on schedule. We are looking forward to forging a strong, close working relationship with UCOR," John Eschenberg, DOE's cleanup chief in Oak Ridge and acting deputy manager, said in a statement.

DOE said the partnering agreement defines the working

Wrap Up

IN THE INDUSTRY

EnergySolutions is moving its current manager for the Moab uranium mill tailings cleanup project, Larry

Brede, to serve as Vice President and General Manager of the company's Bear Creek facility near Oak Ridge, Tenn. Brede will report to the Beak Creek facility on Sept. 26, and until then the existing reporting lines at the facility will remain with Director of Operations Brian Parsons,

EnergySolutions said this week. The personnel shift comes as EnergySolutions is coming to the end of its Moab cleanup contract, which is set to expire later this year. The Department of Energy is in the midst of a procurement for the follow-on cleanup contract, which is being competed as a small business set-aside under DOE's set of national Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity cleanup contracts. As a result, EnergySolutions was unable to lead a bid on the follow-on contract, but is part of a team led by TerranearPMC that is competing for the contract.

Michael Taff, who helped facilitate Babcock & Wilcox's spinoff from parent company McDermott Inter-

national and establish B&W as a publicly traded company last year, is stepping down as B&W's Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, the company said. Taff will remain with B&W as a consultant after his one-year term ends July 30 and he will continue to work as the company's CFO until a search for his replacement is concluded. Taff served as McDermott's Chief Financial Officer from 2007 until last July, when he took over the same position with B&W. He is expected to return to Houston, where McDermott is headquartered, after his tenure with B&W ends.

Calendar

July

- 11 SENATE RETURNS FROM INDEPENDENCE DAY RECESS.
- 13 Meeting: Oak Ridge Citizens Advisory Board; DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- 13 Meeting: Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board; TBA; 5 p.m.; Contact: 702-657-9088 or nssab@nv.doe.gov; Information: <http://nv.energy.gov/NSSAB/default.aspx>.
- 16 HOUSE BEGINS DISTRICT WORK PERIOD RECESS.
- 17-21 Meeting: Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 52nd Annual Meeting; Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort, Palm Desert, Calif.; Information: www.inmm.org.
- 21 Meeting: Paducah Citizens Advisory Board; Paducah, Ky.; Contact: Eric Roberts at 270-554-3004 or eric@pdgpcab.org; Information: <http://www.pgdpcab.energy.gov/2011Meetings.html>
- 25 HOUSE RETURNS FROM DISTRICT WORK PERIOD RECESS.

August

- 6 HOUSE AND SENATE BEGIN AUGUST RECESS.

September

- 5 EM PUBS CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
- 6 HOUSE AND SENATE RETURN FROM AUGUST RECESS.

6-9

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Keynote Speaker:

William Magwood, Commissioner, U.S. NRC
David Martin, Secretary, New Mexico Environment Dept.

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Gerard Bruno, Head, Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management Unit, IAEA
Larry Camper, Director, Division of Waste Management & Environmental Protection, U.S. NRC
Sharron DaCosta-Chisley, National Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Ralph Andersen, Senior Director Radiation Safety & Environmental Protection, Nuclear Energy

Institute

Alan Parker, President, Government Group, EnergySolutions
Rod Baltzer, President, Waste Control Specialists

Additional Speakers (as of 7/05/11):

- **Susan Jablonski**, Director, Radioactive Materials Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- **Rusty Lundberg**, Director, Utah Division of Radiation Control
- **Ruth McBurney**, Executive Director, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
- **Tim Murphy**, Chief, Federal Facilities Branch, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection
- **Kazumasa Hioki**, Leader, Knowledge Management Group, Geological Isolation Research and Development Directorate, Japan Atomic Energy Agency
- **Farok Sharif**, President, Washington TRU Solutions
- **Graham Johnson**, Supervisory Scientist, Duke Energy
- **Lisa Edwards**, LLRW Program Manager, Electric Power Research Institute
- **Christine Gelles**, Director, Disposal Operations, U.S. DOE-EM
- **Larry Romine**, Richland Operations Office, U.S. DOE-EM
- **Jay Rhoderick**, Director, Large Site Support, U.S. DOE-EM
- **E. Frank Di Sanza**, Federal Projects Director, Waste Management Project, Nevada Site Office, U.S. DOE
- **Scott Wade**, Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, Nevada Site Office, U.S. DOE
- **Linda Suttora**, Office of Compliance, U.S. DOE-EM

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Keynote Speakers...

Ines Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy

Featured Speakers as 6/30/2011:

- **Ed Winner**, Division of Waste Management, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- **Shelly Wilson**, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- **Paul Bosco**, Director, Office of Engineering and Construction Management, U.S. DOE
- **John Eschenberg**, Assistant Manager Environmental Management, Oak Ridge Operations Office, U.S. DOE
- **Tom Pauling**, Director Site Operations, Office of Legacy Management, U.S. DOE
- **John Ciucci**, Chief Operating Officer, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company
- **Mark Duff**, President, LATA Environmental Services of Kentucky, LLC
- **Garry Flowers**, President, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
- **Dave Olson**, President, Savannah River Remediation Co.
- **Frank Russo**, Project Manager, Bechtel-WTP
- **Leo Sain**, President, URS-CH2M Oak Ridge, LLC
- **Chuck Spencer**, President Washington River Protection Solutions

8-9 Meeting: Hanford Advisory Board; Information: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab>.

14 Meeting: Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board; Frank H. Rogers Building, 755 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nev.; 4 p.m.; Contact: 702-657-9088 or nssab@nv.doe.gov; Information: <http://nv.energy.gov/NSSAB/default.aspx>.

14 Meeting: Oak Ridge Citizens Advisory Board; DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

15 Meeting: Paducah Citizens Advisory Board; Paducah, Ky.; Contact: Eric Roberts at 270-554-3004 or eric@pdgpcab.org; Information: <http://www.pgdpcab.energy.gov/2011Meetings.html>

24 HOUSE AND SENATE BEGIN ROSH HASHANAH RECESS.

October

3 HOUSE AND SENATE RETURN FROM ROSH HASHANAH RECESS.

11-14

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL WEAPONS COMPLEX MONITOR



The WC Monitor is a weekly publication providing intelligence and inside information on D&D cleanup and waste management with the Department of Energy's Nuclear Weapons Complex. Includes firsthand reports from Washington, the major DOE sites and the national laboratories, interviews with top-level officials, predictions for moves that affect your business strategy.

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