

MONITOR

WEAPONS COMPLEX

Waste Management ♦ Clean Up

Volume 21 No. 9

February 22, 2010

— INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS —

EnergySolutions Chairman and CEO Steve Creamer abruptly resigned from all roles with the company late last week, effective immediately.	2	DOE has decided to exercise a contract option with Uranium Disposition Services, LLC, to have UDS carry out “hot functional testing” of the depleted uranium hexafluoride conversion plant located at the Portsmouth site.	11
New changes in how contractor pension costs are managed have freed up \$300 million that will be used for additional work at the Savannah River Site, DOE said last week.	3	Elected officials and business leaders representing two of DOE’s main cleanup sites threatened legal action last week over the Obama Administration’s decision to cancel the planned national high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.	11
Senior management at the DOE Savannah River Operations Office are raising a red flag over what they describe as inadequate federal staffing to oversee cleanup work at the Savannah River Site.	4	At the DOE Operations Offices/Facilities	13
New Mexico’s top environmental official is calling for significant changes in how DOE manages the cleanup of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.	5	At River Protection	
Procurement Tracker	6	Waste Imports Could Impact Groundwater	13
DOE dispatched a consultant-led team to the Savannah River Site last week as part of an ongoing effort to improve the work climate at the site in the wake of a series of management clashes.	8	At Richland	
Pumping of Hanford tank waste resumed last week after workers called a stop to work for the second time this month because of concerns about chemical vapors.	9	DOE Pledges to Improve Beryllium Program	14
One year after President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, stimulus funds made available through the act are helping DOE accelerate the Moab uranium mill tailings disposal project in Utah.	10	D Reactor Passes First Checkup	15
		At Oak Ridge	
		EPA Questions D&D Focus	15
		K-33 D&D Plans Raise Concerns	16
		At Savannah River	
		Tank 48 Recovery Could See Further Delay	16
		NTS LLRW Disposal Volumes	18
		Wrap Up	20
		Calendar	20

ENERGYSOLUTIONS CEO CREAMER ABRUPTLY RESIGNS

EnergySolutions Chairman and CEO Steve Creamer abruptly resigned from all roles with the company late last week, effective immediately. Creamer's departure from EnergySolutions was announced in a brief press release issued in the early morning hours of Feb. 19. "EnergySolutions, Inc., a leading provider of services to the global nuclear industry, announced today that its Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Steve Creamer as CEO of the Company and has appointed Val John Christensen as its Chief Executive Officer and President, effective immediately. Mr. Christensen was also elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Company," the release states.

The announcement was likely a factor in the sharp drop in EnergySolutions' stock price seen on Feb. 19 after financial markets opened. While EnergySolutions' stock closed on Feb. 18 at \$7.79, the stock dropped to \$5.57 in morning trading, a drop of almost 30 percent. In a hastily convened media call on Feb. 19, Christensen said, "This change had nothing to do with any corporate malfeasance, fraud or issues with customers or contracts. [There was] no dispute or conflict between Steve Creamer and the board; no accounting issues, no fundamental or economic issues related to his resignation."

Departure Planned for This Year, Company Says

Christensen has served as President of EnergySolutions since December 2008, and has previously held the roles of the company's executive vice president and general counsel. Replacing Creamer as chairman of EnergySolutions' Board of Directors is Steven Rogel, who serves on the board and was formerly Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of Weyerhaeuser Company, according to EnergySolutions' release.

During last week's call, Christensen said Creamer's departure has been in the works for the past few months. "The process recently started a couple months ago with conversations Steve had with the Board and various Board members and that process of discussions about his interests, the company's interests, his unique situation with the company and his private life—those discussions led to an agenda item at this recent board meeting executive session that was the culmination of those and resulted in a resignation," Christensen said. He also said, "It was more of an abrupt acceleration of the succession plan than we anticipated; again my apologies for ineffective communication in the last 24 hours. We hope you will respect our decision not to disclose the details of Steve's resignation and take comfort in the statements that we've made as to what it is not about."

Creamer Helped Create EnergySolutions

Creamer, who has been a highly visible executive in the Department of Energy marketplace, was one of the driving forces behind the creation of EnergySolutions in early 2006 through the combination of Envirocare of Utah, BNG America and Scientech's D&D division. Since then, the company has conducted several additional acquisitions, including the purchases of Duratek and Parallax, and went public in late 2007. EnergySolutions operates the main U.S. commercial radioactive waste disposal facility, located in Clive, Utah, and is involved in several DOE cleanup projects, including the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion projects at the Portsmouth and Paducah sites, the uranium-233 downblend project at Oak Ridge and the Hanford tank farms cleanup, among others. EnergySolutions is also believed to be leading, or part of, teams formed to compete for a variety of new cleanup contracts, including the Portsmouth D&D contract, the follow-on contracts to manage the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project at DOE's Idaho site and to manage the DUF6 conversion plants; and the follow-on cleanup contract at Paducah.

ExchangeMonitor Publications' Editorial Staff

<p>The <i>WC Monitor</i> is a weekly (50 issues a year) publication providing intelligence and inside information on D&D cleanup and waste management within 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 next moves that affect your business strategy.</p> <p>Edward L. Helminski Publisher Kelli Watson Hughes Office Manager</p>	<p>Martin Schneider, Editor-in-Chief</p>		<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 105 schneider@exchangemonitor.com</p>
	<p>Mike Nartker, Associate Editor</p>	<i>WC Monitor</i>	<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 106 nartker@exchangemonitor.com</p>
	<p>Rebecca Cooper, Senior Reporter</p>	<i>NNB Monitor</i>	<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 108 cooper@exchangemonitor.com</p>
	<p>Todd Jacobson, Reporter</p>	<i>NW&M Monitor</i>	<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 107 jacobson@exchangemonitor.com</p>
	<p>Sarah E. Anderson, Reporter</p>	<i>RW Monitor</i>	<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 110 anderson@exchangemonitor.com</p>
	<p>Lindsay Kalter, Reporter</p>	<i>GHG</i>	<p>Tel.: 202-296-2814 ext. 112 kalter@exchangemonitor.com</p>

Weapons Complex Monitor ■ *Nuclear Weapons & Materials Monitor* ■ *RadWaste Monitor* ■ *Nuclear New Build Monitor* ■ *GHG Transactions & Technologies*

New CEO Indicates Change in Direction

Christensen indicated last week that he would take a different management approach from Creamer. “The difference between Steve and myself is I tend to be more structured and strategic. I will probably have more contact with the Board of Directors and involve them more. I have 16 years of experience with a public company, so I really understand and advocate throughout the organization adherence to smart and appropriate governance policy particularly in respect to board involvement,” Christensen said. He added, “I tend to be more strategic, structural, I am entrepreneurial but I won’t engage in discussions or get on a plane or have anyone else get on a plane to prospect an acquisition or merger unless it’s clear we can grow the target and it makes strategic sense ... and not just add earnings or revenue for a quarter or a year.” Christensen also said EnergySolutions needed “a clear vision” going forward. “We need to have a three-to-five-year plan. We need to understand our business better, our customers better. There will be a much sharper focus on customers and our needs and understanding what kind of business our company will be in and shouldn’t be in. A sharper allocation of resources in areas where we can really present a value proposition to our clients that makes sense.”

In addition, Christensen highlighted what he said were his positive relationships with DOE and lawmakers in Utah, where EnergySolutions is based. “I meet monthly with the Governor of Utah,” Christensen said. “I have a good relationship with him. He was the first to call and congratulate me ... and he said he felt it was a very good move for the company as far as the state of Utah is concerned.” Christensen also touted his close relationships with Utah Sens. Bob Bennett (R) and Orin Hatch (R), as well as Utah state regulators. “I have a good relationship with regulators in the state of Utah. I’m trusted,” he said. “I will admit mistakes, I don’t engage in hyperbole, so stylistically you might notice some differences.”

—Mike Nartker and Sarah Anderson

DOE HIGHLIGHTS NEW PENSION POLICY, THOUGH SOME QUESTION CHANGES

New changes in how contractor pension costs are managed have freed up \$300 million that will be used for additional work at the Savannah River Site, the Department of Energy said last week. The new policy, outlined in DOE’s Fiscal Year 2011 budget request, entails lowering the required funding level for contractor pension plans. As a result, DOE expects a significant cut in its anticipated pension liability for this year. “By making common-sense changes to the way we handle the reimbursement of

contractor pension costs, we will be able to create more contractor jobs and accelerate the environmental cleanup underway at Savannah River,” DOE Chief Financial Officer Steve Isakowitz said in a press statement. “Not only will we continue to ensure that our contractor employees receive the benefits they are entitled to, but we’ll also meet our obligation to taxpayers through sound financial management.”

Overall, the new pension policy is intended to “enhance the Department’s ability to establish credible budgets and provide flexibility to ensure that the Department has the necessary resources to adequately perform its mission work,” DOE spokeswoman Jen Stutsman said in a written response last week. While DOE is trumpeting the resultant windfall from the new pension policy, some have questioned the restrictions set to be placed on some plans as a result of the reduced funding levels and whether the new approach will result in greater costs in the long-term. “They’re playing with fire in the short-term,” one industry official said. “You’re paying the piper in a couple of years.”

New Policy Significantly Drops Liabilities

DOE is the only federal agency that reimburses its contractors for the costs of their defined-benefit pension plans. In recent years, though, those costs have grown significantly due to poor stock market performance and a previous DOE requirement to maintain contractor pension plans at an 80 percent funding level, threatening to reduce funding available for various programs. As a result, DOE chose earlier this year to change its pension policy to no longer require that contractor pension plans be funded at the 80 percent level, but instead at a level “equivalent to the minimum required by [the Employment Retirement Income Security Act], or higher if necessary for a DB pension plan to have a funded status of at least 60 percent,” according to the Department’s FY 2011 budget request. As a result, the projected pension liability for the Office of Environmental Management in 2010 dropped significantly, according to the budget request, from \$567 million to \$153 million.

SRS Pension Plan to See Restrictions

As a result of the new approach, though, restrictions may be placed on some contractor pension plans—those that fall below the 80 percent funding level. DOE expects, however, that few pension plan participants will be impacted. “After performing an extensive analysis, the Department reached a decision that less than 1 percent of contractor employee DB plan participants across the Department would be affected by the policy change,” Stutsman said. “The amount of the impact on those

individuals is limited and will last only until the plan's funded status meets or exceeds 80 percent. This will not impact the total lifetime value of the benefits these individuals receive from their retirement plan. Additionally, this policy change will significantly reduce the financial volatility associated with the plans while enhancing the credibility of the budget and making funds available to create jobs and further the DOE mission."

While the new pension policy has made more funding available at Savannah River for cleanup projects, such as the site's liquid waste cleanup, restrictions will now be placed on the site's pension plan as it is now set to be below the 80 percent funding level by April 1, according to DOE. Explaining the impacts, Stutsman said, "For the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Multiple Employer Pension Plan, employees who retire are given eight different payment options for their pensions. As a result of the changes, seven of those options are unaffected; only the Social Security Income Leveling Option is potentially affected. Impacted employees remain eligible to elect an equivalent form of payment under their pension plan and will receive the same total lifetime benefit," she said. "For the affected pension distribution options—such as the income leveling option at SRS—the change in funding level will impact the timing of the payments, but not the ultimate funding level of the plan over the long term. For the income leveling option, the pension payments will be structured so that they pay out more evenly over time rather than frontloading the pension payments," Stutsman added.

The restrictions are only set to potentially impact a small number of Savannah River employees, Stutsman said. "Only employees under age 62, actively considering retirement in 2010, and electing payment in the form of the Social Security Income Leveling Option may be potentially impacted," she said, adding, "At SRS, DOE expects that less than 1 percent of all DB plan participants will be impacted."

Most Pension Plans to be At 80 Percent, DOE Says

DOE is currently examining whether contractor pension plans at other sites will be affected by the new policy, though the Department expects most to remain at the 80 percent funding level this year, Stutsman said. "The vast majority, if not all, of the Department's other contractor pension plans are expected to maintain a funded status at or above the 80 percent level in 2010. This would mean there is no impact to these plans or benefit options," she said. "DOE expects that if there are any other impacted plans, any benefit changes would occur after April 1. DOE will work with the contractors to provide as much lead time and guidance as possible so that contractors can

provide information to their employees to ensure any affected individuals have the time and information they need to make an informed decision on their benefit payment options."

Stutsman stressed that DOE is "committed to ensuring that our contractor employees receive the benefits they are entitled to by fulfilling our commitments to reimburse contractors for these pension payments over the long term." She added, "Depending on the market and plan assumptions, there may not be a need for larger contributions in later years."

—Mike Nartker

DOE SAVANNAH RIVER OFFICE RAISES ALARM OVER SITE STAFFING LEVELS

Site Manager Jeff Allison Calls on EM HQ to Reverse FY10 Program Direction Funding Cut

Senior management at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office are raising a red flag over what they describe as inadequate federal staffing to oversee cleanup work at the Savannah River Site. In a Feb. 12 memorandum to the No. 2 official in the DOE Office of Environmental Management, Dae Chung, Savannah River Site Manager Jeff Allison called on EM to reverse decisions to cut Fiscal Year 2010 program direction funding and full-time equivalent (FTE) authority at the site. "The constrained FY 2010 Program Direction and FTE authority result in an unacceptable level of vulnerability in several critical mission-need areas (Salt Waste Processing Facility, Liquid Waste Disposition Projects, Nuclear Engineering, Chief Financial Officer," Allison wrote in the memorandum, which was obtained last week by *WC Monitor*.

Of particular concern is the staffing for the Savannah River Salt Waste Processing Facility, a major construction project at the site building a plant to process salt waste taken from Savannah River's underground high-level waste tanks for eventual disposal. "I believe it is imperative that I bring to your attention that the SWPF Project Office is deplorably understaffed," Allison wrote, adding, "External review teams assessing the SWPF project consistently generate findings/recommendations identifying the appallingly inadequate staffing of the SWPF Project Office." While "nationally recognized project management staffing models" indicate that the SWPF Project Office should have between 22 and 50 FTEs,"distressingly, the project is currently staffed with only 10 FTEs," Allison added. EM spokeswoman Shari Davenport said late last week that personnel from DOE headquarters and the field offices "engage in a regular dialogue as to how to most efficiently allocate resources to execute clean-up activities." She added, "These discus-

sions are internal deliberations to ensure we find the right balance of staff and contractor support to address any identified skill gaps as the budget allows.”

Site Staffing Levels Long Pose Concern

The Savannah River Site is no stranger to staffing concerns. In recent years, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has questioned the federal staffing levels at the site, warning of the potential impacts to adequate oversight (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 20 No. 21). In addition, a Construction Project Review of the SWPF conducted last summer also stressed the need for increased federal staffing on the project as construction of the plant moves forward (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 7).

To help address staffing shortfalls, the Savannah River Operations Office had called for a full-time equivalent ceiling of 373 in FY 2010, to be supported by a program direction budget of approximately \$60 million. However, since the start of the current fiscal year last October, EM has moved twice to cut both Savannah River’s FTE authority and program direction funding, according to Allison’s memorandum. In total, the cuts reduced the site’s program direction funds by approximately \$7.5 million and dropped the site’s FTE authority down to 347. As a result, the Savannah River Operations Office has been forced to freeze some “critical hiring actions,” including positions for a facility representative and facility engineer for the SWPF project and a facility representative for the site’s liquid waste disposition project, Allison wrote. He called on EM to restore approximately \$3 million in site program direction funds and to reinstate an FTE authority of 357 to help “make progress towards shrinking current critical skill gaps.” Allison wrote, “These actions are vital to avoid further diminishing our capabilities and flexibilities, thereby jeopardizing our ability to deliver on our mission commitments.”

DOE Looks To Transfer SWPF Director

Meanwhile, it appears another big change on federal staffing at the Savannah River Operations Office is imminent, with SWPF Federal Project Director Zack Smith set to be tapped to head other work at the site. According to internal e-mails obtained by *WC Monitor*, EM was set late last week to name Smith as head of Savannah River’s Recovery Act efforts—a position that has been the source of controversy and one EM has struggled to fill since last fall. In a Feb. 13 e-mail to Allison, Chung wrote, “I spoke with Zack Smith earlier today and he is willing to step up to lead this effort. I know this move will impose additional challenges for Tony [Polk, the SWPF deputy director] but I believe he will likewise step up to lead the SWPF project while Zack is away on ARRA. Both of them have done a

great job in improving the overall project performance over the past year.”

—Mike Nartker

NNSA SHOULD BE ‘EXCUSED’ FROM ROLE AT LOS ALAMOS CLEANUP, NMED SAYS

N.M. Official Says He Has ‘Grave Concerns’ 2015 Cleanup Deadline Can Be Met

New Mexico’s top environmental official is calling for significant changes in how the Department of Energy manages the cleanup of the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In an interview with *WC Monitor* earlier this month, New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said he had “grave concerns” about whether DOE can meet a 2015 deadline for completing legacy cleanup work at Los Alamos under the current management approach that involves both the National Nuclear Security Administration and DOE’s Office of Environmental Management. Instead, DOE should “excuse” NNSA from playing a role in the cleanup of Los Alamos, and make it fully the responsibility of EM, Curry said. “If you want to convince people that you are efficient and competent, you have to meet the commitments you’ve agreed to,” he said. “I think as long as you’ve got a two-headed monster ... it’s not going to be efficient.” Curry added, “They’re going to have to decide not only who is making the decisions, but is it the final decision?”

Curry criticized what he said was “the constant lack of regular direction and the clash by the different mission statements” of the NNSA and the Office of Environmental Management at Los Alamos. “It’s a frustration I have seen for seven years”. Curry said he planned to raise the issue with Assistant Energy Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay in talks scheduled for next month, and that he would ask Triay to “formally convey the message to Secretary [of Energy Steven] Chu that the matrix they are operating under is not working.”

‘Poor Operating Matrix’ Contributed to Fines

As an example of the issues posed by DOE’s current management approach at Los Alamos, Curry cited the differing stances between the Department and NNSA last May over the payment of a fine of approximately \$1.3 million imposed by the state over the failure to plug and abandon a leaking groundwater monitoring well. “We watched over a period of six weeks where we were told on three different occasions that the fine would be paid and the check issued,” Curry said, adding that the same time the NNSA was saying the fine would not be paid. Ultimately, the fine was paid, he said. “It’s a constant battle.”

WEAPONS COMPLEX MONITOR'S MONTHLY PROCUREMENT TRACKER

PROJECT	CURRENT CONTRACT	STATUS	SIZE/VALUE	ELIGIBILITY	CAPABILITIES	COMMENTS
IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project	Contract with Bechtel-BWXT Idaho (BBWI) set to expire March 31, 2010.	'Best and final offers' submitted Sept. 21, 2009.	6 years/ Undetermined	Full and Open	Waste Disposal	
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY LLNL Security Services	Security Services provided by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC.	Sources Sought notice issued May 12, 2009.	Undetermined	Undermined	Security Services	Responses to Sources Sought notice requested by May 29, 2009.
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY LANL Security Services	Contract with SOC Los Alamos expires Sept. 30, 2009.	Prequalification notice issued April 7, 2009.	5 years plus 5 option years	Undetermined	Security Services	
NATIONAL LABORATORIES Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Office of Science)	UT-Battelle's contract expires March 31, 2010.		Undetermined	Unrestricted	Laboratory Management	
NNSA NNSA Production Sites	Pantex, Y-12 and Kansas City Plant contracts expire in 2010.	Contracting options delivered to NNSA headquarters in April.	Undetermined	Undetermined	Management and Operation	Acquisition strategy expected to call for consolidation of Y-12 and Pantex M&O contracts as well as Kansas City Plant and Sandia production contracts.
Office of Secure Transportation Support Services	Wackenhut Services Inc.'s contract extended to September 2009.	Innovative Technology Partnerships, LLC has taken over contract.	5 years/Up to \$95 million	Small Business Set-Aside	Support Services	PAI Corporation appealing denial of U.S. Court of Federal Claims by protest.
OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE Integrated Facilities Disposition Project	N/A	N/A	Undetermined	Undetermined	D&D	DOE evaluating contracting approaches
ORNL Building 2026 and 3038	N/A	New Request for Proposals issues in early October. Bids submitted Nov. 12, 2009.	Undetermined	ID/IQ Small Business Set-Aside	Waste Disposal	
Building K-33 Demolition	N/A	Request for Proposals issued Feb. 9, 2010. Bids due by March 4, 2010.	Undetermined	ID/IQ Small Business Set-Aside	D&D	DOE projects award in "early April 2010."

PROCUREMENT TRACKER (Continued)

PROJECT	CURRENT CONTRACT	STATUS	SIZE/VALUE	ELIGIBILITY	CAPABILITIES	COMMENTS
OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE (Continued) ORNL D&D	N/A	New Request for Task Proposals issued in early October. Bids submitted Nov. 5, 2009.	Undetermined	ID/IQ Small Business Set-Aside	D&D	
PORTSMOUTH/PADUCAH PROJECT OFFICE DUF6 Conversion Facilities Operations	Contract with Uranium Disposition Services expires February 2011.	Request for Proposals issued June 17, 2009. Bids submitted Aug. 17, 2009.	5 years/\$350-450 million	Unrestricted	Facility Operations	DOE has exercised contract option to have UDS conduct hot functional testing of Ports. DUF6 Conversion Plant.
Paducah Remediation	Contract with Paducah Remediation Services expires June. 30, 2010.	Request for Proposals issued Jan. 16, 2009. Bids submitted March 31, 2009.	5 years/\$400-600 million	Small Business Set-Aside	Environmental Remediation	DOE has narrowed field of bidders from five teams to three.
Portsmouth D&D	N/A	Request for Proposals issued June 24, 2009. Full bids submitted Nov. 13, 2009.	10 years/\$2.5-\$3.2 billion	Unrestricted	D&D, Environmental Remediation	
MISC. SITES/PROJECTS DOE Department-Wide Waste Treatment Contract	N/A	Final Request for Proposals issued July 28, 2009. Bids due by Sept. 28, 2009.	5 years/\$24.9 million	Unrestricted	Waste Treatment	
National Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quality Cleanup Contract	Current set of ID/IQ contracts to expire April 6, 2010.	Request for Proposals issued Oct. 15, 2009. Bids submitted by Jan. 8, 2010.	5 years/\$907 million	Unrestricted	Environmental Remediation, D&D, Waste Management, Regulatory Services	
National Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quality Cleanup Contract	Current set of ID/IQ contracts to expire April 6, 2010.	Request for Proposals issued Aug. 6, 2009. Bids submitted Oct. 16, 2009.	5 years/\$926 million	Small Business Set-Aside	Environmental Remediation, D&D, Waste Management, Regulatory Services	
West Valley Environmental Characterization Services	N/A	Request for Proposals issued Dec. 30, 2009. Bids submitted by Feb. 16, 2010.	5 years/\$25 million	Small Business Set-Aside	Characterization Services	

Curry said. “We end up talking to someone from NNSA and get one thing and we talk to DOE and get something else.” The fine was one of three NMED has issued against DOE in recent years, with the others including a \$1.25 million penalty issued in September 2008 for failing to provide adequate groundwater monitoring and a fine of more than \$125,000 last February for failing to conduct adequate vapor monitoring, according to the agency. “There’s no reason they should have paid the several million dollars in stipulated fines because of their poor operating matrix,” Curry said.

In a statement last week, the NNSA Los Alamos Site Office defended the current management approach for the lab’s cleanup. “NNSA and DOE integrate across functional areas to meet our deliverables. The Los Alamos National Laboratory is a Multi-Program Laboratory that brings in numerous and diverse customers. NNSA signed the Consent Order and is, like DOE’s Office of Environmental Management (EM) committed to perform the activities necessary to achieve the milestones established by that Order,” NNSA spokeswoman Toni Chiri said. “While the funding for these activities comes from EM, NNSA and EM have established a joint management protocol for cleanup activities including those funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The NNSA Los Alamos Site Office has a dedicated Environmental Project Office (EPO) at the Assistant Manager level to execute these activities. The EPO Manager reports to the Deputy Manager and the Manager and shares the same level of support and priority as the other NNSA mission work.”

—Mike Nartker

DOE TAKING INITIAL STEPS TO ADDRESS SRS MANAGEMENT CLASHES

The Department of Energy dispatched a consultant-led team to the Savannah River Site last week as part of an ongoing effort to improve the work climate at the site in the wake of a series of management clashes. The purpose of the team’s visit was to meet with senior site management and employees to help implement recommendations from the DOE Inspector General’s Office to improve the situation at the site. In a report released late last year, the Department’s IG described the situation at Savannah River as an “an unusual level of distrust and acrimony” among officials and warned that such strife is “inconsistent with the objective of maintaining the credibility of, and public confidence in” the cleanup work underway at the site (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 1). Among the IG’s recommendations was the need to conduct an independent evaluation of the “human relations climate” at both EM headquarters and Savannah River and the need for an “aggressive program”

to facilitate conflict resolution and promote collaboration among officials.

As part of efforts to implement the IG’s recommendations, the DOE Office of Environmental Management, under the direction of Under Secretary of Energy Kristina Johnson, hired a consultant to “conduct an independent evaluation of the human relations climate at both Headquarters and Savannah River offices,” EM spokeswoman Shari Davenport said in a written response late last week. “The consultant has engaged both HQ and SRS employees in discussions to ensure meaningful collaboration between offices.” The team is led by John Sullivan, a principal with the Alexandria, Va.-based consulting firm Decker, Garman and Sullivan, LLC. Sullivan has previously held several positions within DOE, including Associate Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment; and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business Administration in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Implementation Plan Developed

Two days of meetings were scheduled for Feb. 17-18, including an ‘all-hands’ meeting and discussions with ‘middle managers’ and individual employees on Feb. 18. However, after meetings with SRS senior management on Feb. 17, the Feb. 18 activities were cancelled. “DOE Headquarters representatives and Savannah River officials are working collaboratively to establish a meaningful path forward for communications between offices,” DOE said in a message to SRS employees last week. “Meanwhile, all of the Employee Communications meetings listed in the February 16, message, including the ‘All Hands’ have been cancelled. Savannah River officials will keep you informed as we move forward.”

As part of the meetings last week, the team of consultants was expected to present the implementation plan for addressing the IG’s findings, which, according to a draft of the plan, includes conducting “an independent review on the status of the current ARRA management approach and a time-sequenced review of roles and responsibilities throughout the duration of the ARRA implementation. This will result in an EM-wide management report that will state clearly how these activities will be managed until completion of the initiative.” In addition, the plan states that “an expert consultant on conflict resolution will be hired to review EM and to evaluate the existing climate between the two organizations. Together they will evaluate the processes in place that led to the current conflict and recommend formal procedures to both mitigate the existing conflict and to ensure that a means exists to prevent future conflicts both in the specific circumstances and EM-wide.”

Site Officials Skeptical

The draft implementation plan indicates that Sullivan's team, which also included current DOE officials and a consultant from the National Academy of Public Administration, was sent to Savannah River to "identify root causes of the conflicts between the EM HQ and SRS field offices and subsequently recommend measures necessary to both repair the current rifts and ensure that policies and procedures are in place to prevent their occurrence in the future." Prior to the team's visit, though, some senior Savannah River officials were skeptical as to how effective the effort would be in improving the situation at the site, according to internal e-mails obtained by *WC Monitor*. In a Feb. 16 e-mail to site manager Jeff Allison, Sullivan wrote that the purpose of the visit was to "address head on real and positive measure[s] that can be taken to improve communication and conflict resolution at SRS." In response, though, Allison wrote, "I have to differ with you on 'improve communication and conflict resolution at SRS.' I believe this should be between SRS and HQ, not just at SRS. I don't believe we have an issue at SRS. I also question how this process can proceed without getting all parties in the same room at one time to discuss the issues."

Sandra Johnson, deputy site manager for cleanup, was also critical of the approach. "I am having trouble understanding how this team is considered independent since it is solely comprised of individuals who have long tenures with DOE-HQ, EM-HQ and DOE Field Office," she wrote in a Feb. 17 e-mail to site officials. Johnson said that she had instead recommended that EM turn to the Federal Executive Institute or another major academic institution to "provide true independence and recognized expertise." She added, "I am concerned that there maybe a hidden agenda to paint SRS as the only part of the EM Program nonproductive conflict incompetent culture. ... I just want you to know how helpless I feel to avert non constructive perceptions of our employees, supervisors and managers by this team."

—Mike Nartker

HANFORD TANK WASTE RETRIEVAL WORK RESUMES

*Work Stopped Twice in February
Because of Vapor Exposure Concerns*

Pumping of Hanford tank waste resumed last week after workers called a stop to work for the second time this month because of concerns about chemical vapors. Management with Hanford tank farms contractor Washington River Protection Solutions and officials from the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council followed Department of Energy procedures and investigated and then determined

it would be safe to resume pumping after the first stop work order was called Feb. 1, according to WRPS. However, after new vapor concerns were raised Feb. 2, the company stopped pumping again and spent 10 days studying the issue and making several changes to better protect workers (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 8). WRPS attempted to start work again Feb. 12, but the second stoppage was called under a Hanford policy that allows anyone to stop work over a safety concern. WRPS and HAMTC leaders again found it was safe to work, but decided not to resume until after the holiday weekend.

In a message to employees when pumping resumed last week, Chuck Spencer, president of WRPS, said chemical vapor readings are well below established action levels for chemicals detected and the contractor is taking steps that should further lower exposure. "However, it's obvious chemical vapors continue to be of concern to a number of our workers," he said. Workers with concerns should talk to their managers, he said. "Rumors often flourish during times like these and we want to make sure you have the best information available," he said. While tank pumping continues, WRPS will continue to look at other options that may offer more "protection, confidence and comfort," Spencer said. Among possibilities discussed earlier is raising the stack at Tank C-104 higher than its present 17 feet. Waste is being retrieved now only at Tank C-104.

Vapor Response Raises Concerns

Local watchdog group Hanford Challenge, though, said last week that they are concerned not only with the chemical exposure, but the response to it. "Hanford Challenge believes that the current set of responses to the worker concerns and exposures has resulted in a chilled work environment that discourages, and even punishes workers for raising health concerns associated with vapor exposures," it said in a lengthy statement issued after the second employee stop-work order was called. Concerns are not necessarily with WRPS but also with the Hanford medical and insurance systems. Six workers who filed Washington State Labor and Industries claims for worker compensation were asked questions by the Department of Energy's claims administrator about their background, including their criminal and financial background, and interviews were recorded, according to Hanford Challenge. In addition some workers who reported as required for medical checks after smelling vapors were offered psychological evaluations in addition to physical health checks, Hanford Challenge said. Even if the evaluations were offered in good faith, that raised the implication that symptoms are psychosomatic, Hanford Challenge said.

DOE said neurological checks, not psychological evaluations, were offered to workers or at least one worker.

Recording statements is a normal business practice in workers' compensation claims and is voluntary, according to DOE. Only one worker agreed to have his statement recorded. Recording is meant to give the worker confidence that information is correctly documented and not misinterpreted when conversations are simply summarized, it said. A wide variety of questions are asked, including financial questions to ensure wage loss rates are accurately calculated. Workers are asked about both their criminal and military history because they can provide prior medical documentation, according to DOE.

How Much Is Too Much?

Hanford Challenge also has questioned whether it is well understood at what level the chemicals in the vapors may be harmful since workers are experiencing symptoms from chemicals well within industrial limits. At least a dozen workers smelled vapor odors in late January after work began to pump waste from the tank. Some of them developed symptoms that WRPS said included watery eyes, throat irritation and a metallic taste. Hanford Challenge said some workers also had nosebleeds, numb lips and gums, irregular heartbeats, tightness in the chest, headaches and a burning feeling in the lungs. One worker who smelled the vapors was returned to work with restrictions because of a medical condition diagnosed after the January exposure to vapors. WRPS believes that the January exposure did not directly cause the condition. Hanford Challenge said a chest X-ray was determined to be abnormal, with a possible connection to workplace chemical exposure. "We recognize vapors continue to be a concern with some employees and as such it is of concern to us," said Jerry Holloway, WRPS spokesman. WRPS has met with workers over the past weeks, gathered their ideas on steps to reduce potential exposure and is working to make changes, he said. "They are encouraged to bring forward their concerns," he said.

Since work was stopped Feb. 2 WRPS has added alarmed chemical monitors and increased sampling. Workers have been urged to wear face masks that include a thin layer of charcoal and can also volunteer to wear more protective respiratory protection. Workers have been concerned that the charcoal masks do not protect against mercury. But WRPS said that although there is mercury in the tanks and it can be measured above industrial limits within the stack, mercury has not been detected in work areas. Routine physicals of tank farm workers have not found elevated levels of mercury in their blood, Britton said. Not just mercury, but about 1,500 other chemicals have been detected in the gases and vapors that collect in the upper portion of the tank head space, according to Hanford Challenge. Many of the chemicals could potentially cause

health problems and little is known about the health effects of mixing them together, even at low levels, it said.

Hanford Challenge Offers Some Praise, Seeks Changes

WRPS and the Department of Energy have done some things right in their response to worker concerns, Hanford Challenge said, including planning for long-term fixes and a policy of keeping exposure not just below standard industrial limits but also as low as reasonably possible. But the group is recommending other changes. It wants WRPS to stop work at the C Tank Farms until workers are confident their health is protected, offer independent medical evaluations to workers who request them and improve mercury detection. WRPS and DOE should find experts to help them respond to conflicts between management and workers and respond to vapor concern issues, including a perception by some workers that reporting exposures could put their jobs in jeopardy, Hanford Challenge said. "Clearly there is room for improvement in communication among all parties—us and our employees," Holloway said. "We're committed to that."

—From staff reports

ONE YEAR AFTER STIMULUS, MOAB EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

One year after President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, stimulus funds made available through the act are helping the Department of Energy accelerate the Moab uranium mill tailings disposal project in Utah. Through Feb. 12, DOE has shipped 418,547 tons of material from the project to a nearby disposal cell—nearly 70,000 tons more than the project's target amount of 348,664 tons. The Moab project, which entails moving approximately 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings from the bank of the Colorado River to the Crescent Junction disposal cell about 30 miles away, has been allocated \$108 million in Recovery Act funds. As a result, DOE and project contractor EnergySolutions expect to double the amount of uranium mill tailings to be disposed of by the end of Fiscal Year 2011—from 2 million tons to 4 million. DOE projects the project can be completed in 2025, three years ahead of the initial target, and with additional planned efficiencies the Department is seeking to further accelerate the completion date to 2022.

Earlier this month, *WC Monitor* reported that the Moab project had fallen behind its uranium mill tailings disposal target. That article, however, was based on data from last fall from the DOE Office of Environmental Management and did not reflect the current situation at the project. "The target amounts shown on the DOE ARRA website reflect

preliminary planning assumptions made for the ARRA work; however, now based on more formalized estimates received from the contractor, we can show that the project is ahead of targeted shipping amounts,” DOE spokeswoman Wendee Ryan said last week. With the Recovery Act funds provided to the Moab project, Ryan said, “We are increasingly reaching the 136-container maximum trainload, and during the week of February 8, 2010, eight trains were at the maximum length.” The first 136-container trainload, or 4,700 tons of mill tailings, was shipped to the disposal cell on Jan. 7, a month ahead of schedule. Additionally, Ryan said, “Through the end of December 2009, 227 workers have benefitted and been compensated with Recovery Act funds.”

—Sarah Anderson

UDS TO PERFORM HOT FUNCTIONAL TESTING AT PORTSMOUTH DUF6 PLANT

No Decision Yet on Testing for Paducah Facility

The Department of Energy has decided to exercise a contract option with Uranium Disposition Services, LLC, to have UDS carry out “hot functional testing” of the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion plant located at the Portsmouth site in Piketon, Ohio. UDS, which is led by EnergySolutions and includes AREVA and Burns and Roe, is currently working to prepare the Portsmouth DUF6 conversion plant, as well as a sister facility located at the Paducah site in Kentucky, for operation. “DOE has decided to move forward with the Piketon Hot Functional Testing Option to maintain the current momentum focused on completing the preparation for operations over the next three months. DOE believes exercising the option with the incumbent contractor at this time is in the Government’s best interest and the path most likely to lead to the earliest successful operation of the DUF6 Plant at Piketon,” Dave Kozlowski, deputy manager of the DOE Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, said in a written response.

The two DUF6 conversion plants, which were designed and built by UDS under a contract set to expire in February 2011, are intended to process a total of 700,000 metric tons of material stored at the Portsmouth and Paducah sites into more stable forms for either reuse or disposal over a 25-year period. While UDS was also to have operated the two plants for their first five years, significant cost and schedule overruns experienced during construction led DOE to strip the operating portion out of UDS’s contract and put operation of the two plants out for bid under a separate contract. However, a contract modification finalized with UDS last year included the options for the contractor to perform hot functional testing of each of the two plants. According to Kozlowski, the hot functional

testing option for the Portsmouth DUF6 plant is set to run for six months beginning Feb. 12, with the value still to be determined. DOE has not ruled out also allowing UDS to carry out hot functional testing at the Paducah facility. “This decision relates specifically to the Piketon Plant. No decision on the Paducah Plant, which is a few months behind the Piketon Plant, has been made yet,” he said.

Impact on Ongoing Procurement Unclear

It remains to be seen whether DOE’s decision to have UDS perform the hot functional testing of the Portsmouth DUF6 plant will have any impact on the ongoing procurement for the operating contract for the two facilities. The Request for Proposals issued for the operating contract includes options for hot functional testing at the two plants. Kozlowski largely declined to comment on any potential impacts on the procurement for the operating contracts. “The decision is separate from the ongoing procurement. Any impacts or changes, if any, will be announced through the established Web based procurement notification process,” he said. Three teams are believed to have submitted bids last year for the contracts to operate the two DUF6 conversion plants—B&W-URS, Shaw-Westinghouse and GE-EnergySolutions. DOE currently projects awarding the contracts, which will go to one successful bidder, in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2010.

—Mike Nartker

DOE FACING LAWSUIT THREAT OVER PLANS TO CANCEL YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Stakeholders at the Savannah River Site, Hanford Considering Legal Action to Reverse Stance

Elected officials and business leaders representing two of the Department of Energy’s main cleanup sites threatened legal action last week over the Obama Administration’s decision to cancel the planned national high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Publically leading the charge were lawmakers from the state of South Carolina, home to DOE’s Savannah River Site, who held an event at the South Carolina State House on Feb. 16 to lambast the Administration’s move.

“We’d respectfully but fervently disagree with the Obama Administration’s decision to abandon the 23-year bipartisan project establishing Yucca Mountain as the nation’s primary permanent nuclear waste storage site,” South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford said in a statement after the event. “Not only does this spectacularly misguided decision break a decades-long promise made to South Carolina and other states, but it represents the same Chicago-style political patronage that this President has indeed campaigned against.” In a separate statement, South Carolina

Attorney General Henry McMaster said his office has been researching “what legal avenues and remedies are available to South Carolina” since the Administration formally announced its decision to cancel the Yucca Mountain project.

The specter of a lawsuit over the end to the Yucca Mountain project is not limited to South Carolina and Savannah River, with business leaders near the Hanford site in Washington state also threatening legal action. In a Feb. 18 letter to President Barack Obama and Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Barry Hartman, a lawyer with the Washington, D.C.-based firm K&L Gates, threatened to file a petition in federal court to block the decision on behalf of his clients—Bob Ferguson, Bill Lampson and Gary Petersen—unless the Administration reversed its stance. Ferguson has previously worked for DOE, the former Washington Public Power Supply System and as an entrepreneur. Lampson is president of Lampson International and vice chair for Hanford programs for the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), an economic development group for the Hanford area in Washington state, while Petersen is TRIDEC’s vice president for Hanford programs. “In the interest of saving taxpayer dollars and judicial resources, we respectfully request the opportunity to meet with your representatives to determine if this matter can be resolved without litigation, and in particular, what steps will be taken to withdraw the decision to abandon the Yucca Mountain site and to comply with the law,” Hartman wrote.

Four Cleanup Sites Could be Impacted

Four of DOE’s cleanup sites house various wastes that were intended to go to the Yucca Mountain repository. At Savannah River, DOE is in the process of vitrifying high-level waste taken from underground tanks at the site, with the resultant canisters full of glass to be shipped to a high-level waste repository. At Hanford, DOE is currently constructing a massive facility—the largest and most expensive construction project in the Department’s entire cleanup program—also intended to vitrify waste taken from underground tanks there for eventual disposal at a high-level waste repository. In addition, the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York state is home to approximately 275 canisters of vitrified waste intended for a high-level waste repository, while DOE’s Idaho site stores spent nuclear fuel that was destined to go to Yucca Mountain.

Stakeholders at both Savannah River and Hanford expressed concern last week over the potential cleanup impacts of the decision to cancel the Yucca Mountain Project. “The Yucca Mountain project provides a path out for the roughly 4,000 metric tons of nuclear waste tempo-

rarily housed at the Savannah River Site and other environmentally-sensitive areas across South Carolina today. Over the last 18 years, South Carolina ratepayers have contributed over \$1.2 billion to the Yucca Mountain project, and the Obama Administration’s recent decision means we will get nothing—literally nothing—in return,” Sanford said in his statement. “So for environmental and financial reasons—and to honor the promises made to this state and others—we’re asking the Obama Administration and Congress to recommit to the Yucca Mountain project.”

In his letter, Hartman wrote, “This final action abandoning the Yucca Mountain project creates the very danger that the DOE and Congress said should be avoided: environmental and human health risk arising from the continued existence of 121 sites where nuclear waste continues to be stored in ways far less safe than Yucca Mountain. Indeed, at the Hanford Site, leaking HLW [high-level waste] storage tanks have contaminated ground water and threaten the Columbia River, and the absence of a repository for its permanent disposal will only increase the costs and continue to expose the residents around the Hanford site to unacceptable environmental and human health risks.”

‘Blue Ribbon’ Panel to Develop Alternatives

In lieu of the Yucca Mountain repository, the Obama Administration has put together an expert panel to look at other options for the disposal of high-level waste, including that from DOE’s cleanup sites. “President Obama believes that nuclear power is a vital part of our energy mix which can create jobs and fuel our economy. As we move to expand nuclear power, the President is fully committed to ensuring that the nation meets our long term storage obligations for nuclear waste. That’s why he has established a bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission, led by Lee Hamilton and Brent Scowcroft, to conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including all alternatives for the storage, processing, and disposal of civilian and defense used nuclear fuel and nuclear waste,” DOE spokeswoman Jen Stutsman said in a statement last week.

However, Hartman wrote that the Obama Administration’s efforts to shut down the Yucca Mountain project, which include withdrawing a license application filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, violate the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. “The NWPA requires that the Secretary follow very specific steps and undertake very specific obligations to assure that preparation and construction of the Yucca Mountain site proceeds forward quickly. Directing that the Secretary take Yucca Mountain ‘off the table’ and announcing that it is ‘no longer an option’ directly violates the law. The Secretary’s withdrawal of the NRC license application, and his announced intent to

do so ‘with prejudice,’ his withdrawal of hundreds of other permit applications, his reassigning of employees, and other action both taken and planned in order to implement the Presidential directive to abandon the Yucca Mountain site also violates the NAPA ,” Hartman wrote. “While it is possible that Congress might choose to change the law and

consider other alternatives, until that happens the President has the legal and Constitutional obligation to uphold and follow that law and may not direct Cabinet officials to ignore it.”

—Mike Nartker

At the DOE Operations Offices/Facilities

AT RIVER PROTECTION WASTE IMPORTS COULD IMPACT GROUNDWATER

The draft Hanford Tank Closure and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement shows importing radioactive waste for disposal at Hanford would significantly increase pollution in groundwater far in the future, according to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The state has long opposed the Department of Energy sending radioactive waste to Hanford for disposal, but the draft EIS that’s open for public comment puts some numbers to the state’s assertion that Hanford can take no additional waste. “We’re cleaning up Hanford of some of the constituents we care most about and then recontaminating it with off-site waste to above the acceptable level from a cancer risk standpoint or a safe drinking water standpoint,” said Suzanne Dahl, tank waste treatment section manager for the Department of Ecology.

Under some scenarios in the EIS that appear likely, the amount of certain long-lived radioactive isotopes that would be imported and buried at Hanford would account for as much as 90 percent of the releases of that isotope to the environment, according to the state. Some of the worst contamination could occur 1,000 or more years from now. The draft study prepared by DOE looks at sending 62,000 cubic meters of low-level waste and 20,000 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste to Hanford for disposal. However, DOE officials have agreed as part of a settlement agreement of a state lawsuit not to import that waste until the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant is fully operational. That’s scheduled for 2022 and then importing waste could again become an option.

In the summary of the 6,000-page draft study, DOE writes that “receipt of off site waste streams that contain specific amounts of certain isotopes, specifically iodine 129 and technetium 99, could have an adverse impact on the environment.” It suggests two alternatives: Robust treatment of the waste such as turning it into glass before burying it at Hanford or limiting or restricting disposal of waste with those isotopes at Hanford. Iodine-129 and technetium-99 are of concern because they both spread readily in the ground rather than clinging to soil and also are long lived. Isotopes of cesium and strontium are more

prevalent in the waste proposed to come to Hanford, but have half-lives of about 30 years. In contrast, technetium-99 has a half life of 212,000 years and iodine-129 has a half life of 15.7 million years.

Future Waste Imports Not Set to be Treated

Under current proposals, imported waste would not be processed at Hanford, according to the state, but could go straight to a lined landfill in central Hanford, such as the Integrated Disposal Facility, which also is planned to hold vitrified low-activity tank waste. The tank waste from Hanford would have 48.2 curies of iodine that would be vitrified and the proposed imported waste would add an additional 15 curies of iodine, which under current plans would not be immobilized in glass. About 1,800 curies of technetium-99 would be expected from off site sources, compared to 29,700 curies of technetium from Hanford tanks that would be vitrified. Iodine-129 releases from the Integrated Disposal Facility would peak 1,000 or 2,000 years into the future at 18 picocuries per liter, according to the state. The drinking water standard is 1 picocurie per liter. “When you look at the groundwater releases from the Integrated Disposal Facility, it goes up significantly when you have off-site waste,” Dahl said.

About 90 percent of the iodine-129 that would be released from the landfill would come from waste imported to Hanford and about 75 percent of the technetium-99 released from the landfill would come from waste imported to Hanford, according to the state. That’s assuming that all the low-activity tank waste is treated at the Waste Treatment Plant, rather than through alternate methods the state does not support, such as bulk vitrification. “It is so significant it is hard to imagine it would be acceptable to be disposed of at Hanford,” Dahl said. “Certainly it would have to be significantly mitigated, and they may not be able to mitigate that far.” Washington state voters overwhelmingly supported barring DOE from sending more radioactive waste to Hanford until waste already there has been cleaned up when Initiative 297 was on the ballot in 2004. It was found unconstitutional and never became law.

AT RICHLAND DOE PLEDGES TO IMPROVE BERYLLIUM PROGRAM

The Department of Energy is committed to improving a program to protect Hanford workers from beryllium, said Glenn Podonsky, the DOE chief health, safety and security officer; and Frank Marcinowski, deputy assistant energy secretary for technical and regulatory support in DOE's Office of Environmental Management, last week. DOE will boost a planned review of the Hanford beryllium disease prevention program to a full scale inspection of the program, Podonsky said. In addition DOE will follow recommendations made by the Hanford Advisory Board to improve the beryllium protection program, Marcinowski said.

HAB Concerned Over Rising Disease Rates

On Feb. 5, the Hanford Advisory Board sent a letter to DOE officials critical of Hanford efforts to protect workers from beryllium exposure, saying recommendations made for improvements were not being followed (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 8). It was part of an exchange of letters that started when the board gave DOE advice 10 months ago. DOE responded by calling a meeting at Hanford with Podonsky that included members of the advisory board, Hanford DOE leaders, organized labor officials and workers with chronic beryllium disease to discuss the program and plans for the investigation. Ines Triay, the DOE assistant secretary for environmental management, had planned to attend by video conference but Marcinowski was a last minute replacement because of a serious illness in Triay's family.

The advisory board is concerned that cases of chronic beryllium disease are increasing at a rate of 10 percent a year, said board member Mike Korenko. Beryllium was machined at Hanford in reactor fuel production, and contaminated dust from that and other sources remains in some buildings. Now 32 Hanford workers have been diagnosed with the disease, an increase of three since last spring, according to the board. The disease may be diagnosed anytime from months to decades after exposure, said workers at the meeting.

DOE 'Can Turn The Corner,' Podonsky Says

The involvement of top DOE officials elevates the response to concerns from top Hanford managers to their supervisors in Washington, D.C., and to the DOE office that reports on health and safety matters directly to the energy secretary and his deputy. "I am guardedly optimistic we can turn the corner," Podonsky said. The inspection team will include or involve national experts in chronic beryllium disease and prevention of beryllium exposure,

members of the Hanford Advisory Board, workers affected by beryllium and employees of the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security, which is independent of Office of Environmental Management. A review initially was requested by the Office of Environmental Management, which oversees Hanford, but now will be an inspection of the program with a requirement that findings be addressed, Podonsky said. Results could not only change protection of workers at Hanford, but also could be applied at other DOE cleanup sites, he said.

The inspection team will interview workers, collect records, determine how buildings are being checked for contamination and study previous reports, what actions have been taken and how money has been spent, Podonsky said. Work on the first phase of the inspection should be completed this spring. Tom Peterson, a worker with the disease who needed an oxygen supply to attend the meeting, said he wants the inspection team to look at the beryllium exposure limits at Hanford. He believes they are outdated and too high to be safe, he said. A focus on good training is needed, said Mark Fisher, chairman of the Hanford Beryllium Awareness Group. Bureaucrats denying claims for medical treatment for ill workers because of petty technicalities also is a problem, said board member Keith Smith.

Workers' Reluctance to Testing to be Addressed

DOE needs to address the issue of workers being reluctant to be tested for a sensitivity to beryllium, Podonsky said. They need better protection of their jobs and health care if they are found to be at risk of developing chronic beryllium disease, he said. "At the end of the day we have lost our humanity when we forget about the workers," he said. Among the steps DOE is preparing to take is following advisory board advice that a commercially available laser system be investigated to see if it can scan for and detect beryllium in buildings. It also needs to work to have more research conducted to understand the disease and its prevention, Podonsky said. Congress may need to be encouraged to improve the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act to better take care of beryllium affected workers, he said.

Members of the advisory board said DOE's prompt response to their latest letter was a welcome and appreciated step. DOE has laid out high expectations and the board will be watching for follow through, said Susan Leckband, board chairwoman. "I'm encouraged," Fisher said. But making improvements is not as simple as flipping a switch and having improvements implemented, he said.

AT RICHLAND D REACTOR PASSES FIRST CHECKUP

Hanford's D Reactor has passed its first five-year checkup since being cocooned. When it was reopened, nothing out of the ordinary was found, said Todd Nelson, a spokesman for River Corridor Closure contractor Washington Closure Hanford. However, some safety measures were added,

such as improved railings. Although the reactor cocoon only is opened every five years, several people, including Hanford regulators, enter to check and verify conditions. Only emergency lighting is available. The doors to the cocooned reactor now have been welded shut again.

AT OAK RIDGE EPA QUESTIONS D&D FOCUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is raising concerns that the Department of Energy's ambitious demolition strategy in Oak Ridge may be coming at the expense of the environment. The EPA wants DOE to reassess its priorities, giving more attention to cleanup of soils and groundwater. The message, delivered in a Feb. 9 letter from EPA's Region IV to DOE's Oak Ridge office, is clearly setting the stage for a series of three-party talks upcoming among EPA, DOE and the state of Tennessee. The expectation is that a new long-range cleanup agreement could be on the table, perhaps extending the Oak Ridge cleanup program beyond the current 2036 schedule.

delayed," he said. "Although completion of ETTP cleanup remains a priority to DOE and many of its stakeholders, EPA does not believe ETTP should be the sole priority for cleanup over the course of the next decade and therefore effectively defer necessary response actions at ORNL and Y-12/BCV for as much as 20 years after ROD signature," Hill wrote.

Tennessee Shares EPA's Concerns

In a Feb. 9 letter to John Eschenberg, DOE's cleanup manager in Oak Ridge, Franklin Hill of the EPA wrote, "EPA is concerned that DOE ... is placing too much emphasis on building demolition activities in lieu of contaminated environmental media cleanup." Hill, director of the Superfund Division in EPA's Region IV, which is based in Atlanta, added, "Significant levels of contamination in environmental media continue to migrate uncontrolled in groundwater and surface water, and in some cases beyond the boundaries of the ORR [Oak Ridge Reservation]. ... This is viewed as a significant risk and should be addressed earlier than what DOE . . . has recently indicated."

John Owsley, who heads the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's oversight office in Oak Ridge, said the state sent a similar letter to DOE addressing many of the same issues. Representatives of the DOE, EPA and TDEC are expected to meet within the next few weeks to discuss a multitude of issues under dispute, including the level of funding for Oak Ridge cleanup projects. DOE spokesman John Shewairy declined to comment specifically on the concerns raised by the environmental regulators. "We have a process in place to meet with our regulators to discuss the issues they have raised, and that will take place in the near future," he said. "We're not in a position to comment on these issues until we meet with them."

'Good Mix' of Projects Needed, EPA Says

Some Priorities Delayed Due to Accelerated Cleanup

Hill noted that some Oak Ridge actions that were previously planned, with Records of Decision in place, got delayed in 2003 when the EPA and the state of Tennessee agreed to DOE's Accelerated Cleanup Plan. The accelerated plan put the priority on the two big Oak Ridge projects: dealing with the old burial grounds in Melton Valley and the cleanup and closure of the former K-25 uranium-enrichment site, now known as the East Tennessee Technology Park. Those priorities delayed work to address pollution issues at ORNL and the Y-12/Bear Creek Valley areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation, Hill said. While "significant progress" was made on Melton Valley and ETTP in recent years, the full cleanup of ETTP—where the demolition of the enormous K-25 building is nearing a mid-point—has been "significantly

In his letter, EPA's Hill listed a number of priority projects that deal with contamination in the environment. Those Oak Ridge projects needs to be balanced with the closure activities taking place at ETTP, he said. Among EPA's priorities are cleanup actions dealing with soil, groundwater and surface water in multiple zones at ETTP; cleanup of soils at the Y-12 scrapyard; groundwater cleanup associated with an old underground waste tank at ORNL; and assessment of groundwater contamination migrating off-site from ORNL's Melton Valley burial grounds. Harold Taylor, the EPA federal section chief for Tennessee-Kentucky; and Owsley, both said that DOE, in verbal discussions, had indicated it wanted to delay some of the milestones associated with projects that address the environmental contamination. "We've always said we want a good mix," Taylor said, "not lean too heavily on the

D&D.” Taylor said EPA recognizes that DOE’s Oak Ridge office has to gain the concurrence of agency headquarters on certain activities. He said the purpose of the EPA letter

was to make sure EPA’s points and priorities don’t get lost. “The state takes a similar position,” Owsley said, noting that pollution migrating in the environment is “unacceptable.”

AT OAK RIDGE K-33 D&D PLANS RAISE CONCERNS

The non-profit group pushing reindustrialization of old Department of Energy sites in Oak Ridge is not wholly happy with DOE’s strategy on demolishing the site’s K-33 building, but the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) is not about to publicly criticize its benefactor. The concern is about DOE’s recently released Request for Proposals seeking bids on the K-33 demolition contract, which calls for a small business to demolish the building down to the slab—but leave the contaminated slab in place. “Obviously, if money was not an object to constrain it, I would have liked to see it go down to ground level,” CROET President Lawrence Young said. Young said it would be difficult to market the Oak Ridge site for industrial use as long as the contaminated slab of the former uranium-enrichment facility remains in place.

next couple of budget cycles” for a follow-on contract to take up the building slab. Getting the building demolished is better than nothing, of course, and opens up future opportunities, he said.

K-33 Location Suitable for Reuse

The 2.8 million-square-foot K-33 building was decommissioned in the 1990s by BNFL, as part of a big three-building D&D project at Oak Ridge, and CROET tried for years afterwards to find an industrial tenant interested in using the big building for its operations. “We gave it a pretty good shot for multiple years, but it didn’t take,” Young said. That’s why DOE is tearing down the building, he said. The location is suitable for industrial development, perhaps ideal for some big projects, and that’s why it’s important to get rid of the slab and make the site ready and available, Young said. “It’s large, it’s flat, it has the infrastructure already there,” Young said. “The water and the sewer were there to accommodate a very large facility.” The Oak Ridge site also has access to rail and river, and it’s four miles to Interstate 40, he said.

DOE plans to pay for the K-33 demolition with some of the Recovery Act money received in Oak Ridge, and including the slab removal as part of the project reportedly would have added millions of dollars—some say about \$20 million—to the overall cost. Young said he “very much” hopes that additional money will come available “in the

AT SAVANNAH RIVER TANK 48 RECOVERY COULD SEE FURTHER DELAY

An effort to return one of the Savannah River Site’s underground high-level waste tanks to active service may be at risk for further delay. While the Department of Energy has planned for Tank 48 to be ready for active service by the end of 2014, the specialized treatment of the waste within the tank is not set to be complete until almost a year later, in the third quarter of 2015, according to THOR Treatment Technologies, a joint venture between Studsvik and URS that is responsible for constructing the process that will be used to treat the Tank 48 waste. Overall, the Tank 48 project is being managed by URS-led Savannah River Remediation, LLC (SRR), the liquid waste contractor at SRS. “Plant start up and operational readiness testing is to be completed by the spring of 2014. Treatment of the 350,000 gallons of waste is scheduled to be completed by the third quarter of 2015,” THOR Treatment Technologies President Mike McNamara said in a written response earlier this month. “It’s the shortest possible schedule the project can deliver,” McNamara told *WC Monitor*.

DOE set the December 2014 schedule for returning Tank 48 to active service in a letter sent last fall to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which has been concerned over delays on the project. Late last week, the DOE Savannah River Operations Office reiterate that December 2014 continues to remain the target for returning the tank to active service. “This forecast Return to Service date is DOE’s best estimate until the project schedule is baselined in accordance with DOE Order 413.3. DOE anticipates baselining this project in December 2010. At that time a formal start date for the Tank 48 Treatment Process will be established, leading to a higher confidence date by which Tank 48 will be available for return to high level waste service,” DOE spokeswoman Julie Petersen said in a written response.

Time Needed to Determine Technology At Issue

DOE is working to recover Tank 48, in large part, for use in operations at Savannah River’s planned Salt Waste Processing Facility, which is intended to prepare salt waste taken from the site’s underground tanks for eventual

disposal. The 1.3-million-gallon-capacity Tank 48 contains high-level waste contaminated with tetraphenylborate salts. As a result of that contamination, the Tank 48 waste cannot be mixed with material in other tanks nor can it be processed for disposal through currently planned methods at Savannah River. In 2008, DOE decided to use a fluidized bed steam reforming (FBSR) process to treat the Tank 48 waste. Last year, though, DOE chose to re-evaluate that decision and spent time conducting further testing on the FBSR process, as well as another processing method considered known as wet air oxidation. Ultimately, DOE chose to stand by its choice of fluidized bed steam reforming to treat the Tank 48 waste, with SRR awarding THOR Treatment Technologies late last year a \$55 million contract to design and construct the FBSR process to be used.

According to McNamara, the extended schedule for treating the Tank 48 waste is tied to the additional time DOE took to validate the use of the fluidized bed steam reforming process. "There really isn't any way to make up the time spent confirming they [DOE] were using the correct technology," he said. McNamara added, however, "If we see an opportunity to pull the schedule back, we will exploit it aggressively." DOE does not anticipate any impacts if there are delays in recovering Tank 48, Petersen

said. "Alternative tanks have been identified to support tank farm and SWPF operations in the event that Tank 48's return to service is delayed for any reason. Therefore, DOE does not anticipate any impacts to SWPF operations in this eventuality," she said.

Design Work Underway

Design work on the FBSR process to be used at Savannah River got underway last November, with the "initial" design phase set to be completed next month, according to McNamara. The design is currently scheduled to be fully completed by the second quarter of 2011, with the installation of the process components into an existing building at Savannah River set to be completed by the third quarter of 2012, according to McNamara. The use of an existing Savannah River building is one factor set to result in reduced risks for the project, McNamara said, adding that knowledge gained through the construction of a waste treatment facility at DOE's Idaho site that also will use steam reforming will also help the project. However, there is likely to be some risks going forward, McNamara said. "When you put new vessels in an existing building ... there could be interference issues that could require small modifications," he said. McNamara also noted the potential impacts of changes in commodity costs. "These suppliers are very, very savvy," he said. ■

MONITOR

WEAPONS COMPLEX

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.

- YES! Please enter my subscription for one full year at \$1,295.00*.
- Standard Delivery**
(Delivered in PDF form via email)
- Print Delivery
(Delivered via mail)
- Check Enclosed Charge My: VISA MC AMEX
(Circle One)

Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

I would like information on rates for Multi-user/Enterprise/Site Subscriptions

Fax to: 202-296-2805 or Mail to: ExchangeMonitor Publications, Inc.; Attn.: Subscription Services; PO Box 39289, Washington, DC 20016; For more information email: subservices@exchangemonitor.com or call 1-800-776-1314 ext. 101.

* Effective 10/1/94 all subscriptions within the District of Columbia MUST add 5.75% sales tax to amount due.
** Due to copyright purpose, all recipients asked to sign electronic subscription agreement

NTS LLRW Disposal Volumes

DOE APPROVED GENERATORS	Disposal Location	W/E: 01/31/2010			FY 2010 TOTAL			WMP TOTAL	
		Weekly Shipments	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)	FY 2009 Shipments	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	1	889.93	25.20	20	7,365.79	208.58	28,993	820.98
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
BECHTEL JACOBS (ORR)	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	171,554	4,857.87
	Area 5	4	3,815.04	108.03	22	25,838.81	731.67	624,699	17,689.50
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	1	762.80	21.60	32,652	924.60
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
BWXT Y-12	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1,610	45.59
	Area 5	3	4,834.44	136.90	105	144,238.93	4,084.39	960,663	27,202.94
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	6,416	181.69
DURATEK, INC.	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	5	3,355.77	95.02	16,388	464.05
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	1	2,084.98	59.04	22,938	649.53
ENERGX (ORR)	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	1	2,556.78	72.40	43,264	1,225.09
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	3	5,085.30	144.00	14,408	408.00
GENERAL ELECTRIC VALLECITOS	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY AMWTP	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	20	21,958.67	621.80	45,559	1,290.08
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY ICP	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	3	3,370.47	95.44	5	3,821.22	108.20	17,117	484.71
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	2	485.97	13.76	18,228	516.16
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY BEA	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	9,683	274.19
	Area 5	1	1,278.39	36.20	14	9,875.39	279.64	148,381	4,201.69
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	990	28.03
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	4,803	136.01
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	343,230	9,719.19
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	7	4,572.45	129.48	234,547	6,641.64
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	406	11.49
LOVELACE RESPIRATORY RESEARCH INSTITUTE	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	10,213	289.20
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	6,974	197.48
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
NAVAL REACTORS/ KAPL	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
NATIONAL SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	349,600	9,899.57
	Area 5	1	206.24	5.84	8	6,251.20	177.01	244,685	6,928.71
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	29,303	829.77
NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	13,440	380.58
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	17	20,935.94	592.84	278,054	7,873.61
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00

DOE APPROVED GENERATORS	Disposal Location	W/E: 01/31/2010			FY 2010 TOTAL			WMP TOTAL	
		Weekly Shipments	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)	FY 2009 Shipments	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)	Volume (Ft ³)	Volume (M ³)
ORNL BUILDING 3019 D&D	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
PADUCAH	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	236,166	6,687.48
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	1	754.29	21.36	523,408	14,821.27
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
PANTEX	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	34,950	989.67
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	146,598	4,151.19
PERMAFIX M&EC	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	34	5,102.76	144.49	484	102,071.94	2,890.36	214,946	6,086.59
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	21	7,995.35	226.40	68,414	1,937.28
PORTSMOUTH	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	51,628	1,461.94
	Area 5	2	3,013.05	85.32	35	35,667.28	1,009.98	1,234,091	34,945.57
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	125,832	3,563.15
BOEING-ROCKETDYNE	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	188,240	5,330.36
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	74,350	2,105.36
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	110	3.11
SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	72,766	2,060.50
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	111,462	3,156.25
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1,166	33.02
SAVANNAH RIVER	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	92,761	2,626.70
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	277,583	7,860.27
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	16,410	464.68
STOLLER-NAVARRO JOINT VENTURE	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	427	12.09
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	43,401	1,228.98
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	7,480	211.80
UT-BATTELLE (ORNL)	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1,276	36.13
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	1	130.03	3.68	6,104	172.85
WEST VALLEY	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	89,618	2,537.70
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	380,991	10,788.46
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
WIPP TRU SOLUTIONS	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
INACTIVE OFFSITE WASTE GENERATORS	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	9,946,379	281,650.06
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	12,210,537	345,763.88
	Mixed	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	283,372	8,024.20
INACTIVE ONSITE WASTE GENERATORS	Area 3	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	8,211,495	232,523.62
	Area 5	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	76,538	2,167.31
GRAND TOTAL		49	22,510.32	637.42	773	405,808.89	11,491.23	38,407,298	1,087,573.45

At this time, Area 3 is not receiving waste for disposal

Total offsite waste received in FY 10 = 399,557.69 Ft³ 11,314.21 M³
Total onsite waste received in FY 10 = 6,251.20 Ft³ 177.01 M³

Offsite waste comprises approximately 76.66% of the total waste inventory
Onsite waste comprises approximately 23.34% of the total waste inventory

Number MLLW shipments in FY 10 = 00 W/E 01/31/2010 27 FY2010

Total mixed waste received in FY 10 = 15,651.60 Ft³ 443.20 M³
Total mixed waste capacity remaining = 411,113.98 Ft³ 11,641.45 M³

The weekly report represents a snapshot as of the week ending date noted. The LWIS database constitutes the official record.

Wrap Up

IN DOE

Bids were scheduled to go in last week for the new West Valley environmental characterization services contract. The contract, which is being competed as a small business set-aside, is intended to provide a variety of “comprehensive environmental task-based characterization services” at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New

York state, according to the Department of Energy (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 3). Cleanup work at the site is being performed under a separate, existing contract. The new contract is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity-type contract that is set to run for up to five years and to have a ceiling of \$25 million, according to DOE. The completion date for task orders placed under the new contract will be for up to five years. ■

Calendar

FIRST ANNUAL DECISIONMAKERS' FORUM ON ELECTRICITY GENERATION IN A DECARBONIZED ECONOMY

*Rethinking, Restructuring, Reinvigorating...
Coal, Natural Gas, Nuclear, Wind & Energy Efficiency Options...*

EARLY 2010
Washington, D.C.

Bookmark www.future-electricity-options.com
for Updates on the Program

*Interested in Presenting a Paper... Putting Together
a Session... Becoming a Partner or Exhibitor... Call
1-877-303-7367 Ext. 109 or Email:
forums@exchangemonitor.com*

For Information Call 1-877-303-7367 ext. 109 or
email: forums@exchangemonitor.com

February

- 24 Meeting: House Cleanup Caucus briefing on the DOE Office of Environmental Management with Assistant Energy Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay; 1334 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.; 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
- 25 Meeting: House Cleanup Caucus briefing on Oak Ridge; Capitol Visitors Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Washington, D.C.; 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

March

- 4 Budget Hearing: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, “Fiscal Year 2011 Budget: Department of Energy” with Energy Sec. Steven Chu; Room TBD; Information: <http://appropriations.senate.gov>.

- 4 Meeting: House Cleanup Caucus briefing on the DOE Richland Operations Office; 1334 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.; 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
- 7-11 Conference: WM2010 Conference and Exposition: Improving the Future by Dealing with the Past; Phoenix, Ariz.; Sponsors: WM Symposia; Contact: Mary E. Young; 520-696-0399 or mary@wmarizona.org; Information: www.wmsym.org.
- 9-10 Meeting: 2010 DOE Project Management Workshop: Meeting the Challenge; Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria Hotel, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Va., 22314; Info: <http://management.energy.gov/1771.htm>.
- 10 Meeting: Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs.
- 11 Budget Hearing: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, “Fiscal Year 2011 Budget: Department of Energy” with Energy Sec. Steven Chu; Info.: <http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees>.
- 11 Meeting: House Cleanup Caucus briefing on the Idaho National Laboratory; 1334 Longworth House Office Building; 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
- 16 Meeting: Idaho Citizens Advisory Board; Hilton Garden, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- 16 Budget Hearing: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, “Fiscal Year 2011 Budget: Department of Energy” with Asst. Sec. For Environmental Management Ines Triay; Rayburn 2362 B; Info.: <http://appropriations.house.gov/Subcommittees>.
- 16 Meeting: House Cleanup Caucus briefing on the DOE Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office; 1334 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.; 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
- 18 Meeting: Paducah Citizens Advisory Board.

(Changes from previous Calendar in Bold)