

MONITOR

WEAPONS COMPLEX

Waste Management ♦ Clean Up

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— INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS —

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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

The next issue of Weapons Complex Monitor will be on your desk Jan. 10. Please note, the offices of EXCHANGEMONITOR PUBLICATIONS will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. Happy Holidays.

NEW CR WILL FUND DOE CLEANUP AT FY10 LEVEL THROUGH EARLY MARCH

Congress approved last week a new Continuing Resolution that will continue to fund the Department of Energy's cleanup program at current levels through early March 2011. The new CR, which runs through March 4, 2011, comes after Democratic lawmakers were unsuccessful in pushing for either one that would run for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 or a more detailed omnibus appropriations bill (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 51). As a result, the new Republican majority in the House and the increased Republican presence in the Senate are set to have a greater say in the budget debate for the remainder of FY 2011 once the new Congress is sworn in early next year, with many Republican lawmakers having called for significant cuts in government spending.

Since the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, the DOE Office of Environmental Management and other federal programs have been funded at their FY 2010 levels through a set of CRs, the last of which expired last week. The CRs have been necessary due to lawmakers' failure to complete the appropriations bills that specify funding levels for various federal agencies. Under the CRs, the Office of Environmental Management has been funded at a total of approximately \$6 billion—largely matching DOE's total FY 2011 budget request for cleanup efforts. While the CRs provide DOE with greater authority as to how funds are allocated among EM sites, they also have prevented DOE from moving forward with activities deemed "new starts," such as the start of spent nuclear fuel processing at the Savannah River Site's H-Canyon facility.

Congress Approves FY11 Defense Auth. Bill

Congress last week also approved a final version of the FY 2011 defense authorization bill, which would authorize a funding level of approximately \$5.6 billion for EM's defense environmental cleanup activities—largely matching the Department's budget request. The bill, which had not been signed into law as of press time last week, also contains several policy provisions related to DOE's

cleanup program, such as requiring the Department to notify lawmakers when large cleanup projects experience significant cost-and-schedule increases.

DOE would also be required to submit to Congress five-year plans for work to be performed at defense environmental cleanup sites, such as Hanford, the Savannah River Site and DOE's Idaho site, that would include whether or not regulatory milestones would be at risk of being missed, among other information. In addition, the bill would grant DOE the ability to move forward with a program for establishing energy parks at cleanup site, with a report to be due within 120 days on the implementation of such a program.

—Mike Nartker

URS TO LOSE ALL PROVISIONAL FEE AT SPRU AFTER STRING OF INCIDENTS

Dept. of Energy Moving to Recoup Approximately \$2M Paid to Date

The Department of Energy is moving to take back the approximately \$2 million in provisional fee paid to date to URS for its D&D work at the Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) site because of "poor performance," according to officials. The move is the latest fallout from a set of contamination incidents that occurred at SPRU this fall that brought D&D activities there to a halt and led DOE to threaten to terminate URS if performance does not improve (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 53). "Previously \$1,841,351 in provisional fee payments have been made to [URS]. However, based on [URS]'s performance, it is DOE's intent to recoup 100 percent of the provisional fee payments made to date under the task order. ... Further payment of provisional fee has also been suspended," DOE spokesman Bill Taylor said in a written response last week, adding, "Withholding and recouping provisional payment of fee is one tool DOE uses to hold its contractors accountable for poor performance."

A spokesperson for URS said the company was "disappointed" in DOE's decision and is working to resume D&D activities at SPRU early next year. "We are of course

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disappointed, but we continue to implement our corrective action plan, which we are confident will prevent future performance issues and allow us to safely complete work by the end of 2011. We anticipate restarting work at SPRU in January,” the URS spokesperson said in a written response.

Final Fee to be Determined at the End of Contract

URS’s D&D work at the SPRU site, located at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, involves the demolition of Building H2, a former waste treatment facility; and Building G2, a process research and office building; as well as a piping tunnel between the two buildings and some underground waste tanks. Thanks to Recovery Act funding, DOE has sought to accelerate the completion of the SPRU D&D project by approximately three months in an effort to make SPRU one of three small cleanup sites completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2011.

Those plans are now in jeopardy, though, following the three contamination incidents that occurred between late September and late October. The incidents resulted in the spread of low levels of contamination onto the broader Knolls site, managed by DOE’s Office of Naval Reactors, as well as off-site into the Mohawk River. While DOE has said the incidents resulted in little risk to the public or the environment, they also prompted investigations by federal and New York state environmental regulators.

As of Dec. 13, DOE has recouped approximately \$1.5 million of the provisional fee paid to URS, Taylor said, adding that the Department “will offset future task order invoices until the total amount of \$1,841,351 has been recovered.” Under its contract, URS is eligible to earn a maximum fee of \$7.6 million. The final fee to be paid to the contractor will be determined at the end of the D&D project, Taylor said. “The total amount of fee [URS] will ultimately earn for the task order will be determined after the task order is completed and will be based on [URS]’s cost and schedule performance as well as its protection of worker safety and health.”

—Mike Nartker

SAFETY AND ECOLOGY CORP. SET TO BE ‘SMALL’ BUSINESS ONCE AGAIN

DOE Moves Forward With Officially Awarding SEC Contracts Held Up Over Size Standard Dispute

Safety and Ecology Corp. appears to be once again a “small” business, after the Small Business Administration last week ruled in favor of the company’s appeal of a determination that it exceeded the size standard of having fewer than 500 employees. Both the SBA and the Depart-

ment of Energy Office of Environmental Management’s Consolidated Business Center confirmed that SEC’s appeal had been resolved and that it was once again determined to be a small business. As a result, DOE last week moved forward with officially awarding SEC two contracts that had been held up while the company’s size status was in dispute—the new West Valley environmental characterization services contract and one of the Department’s new set of national small business set-aside Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity cleanup contracts. SEC declined to comment on the new SBA ruling last week.

Size Status Questioned After Successful Bids

SEC’s size status first came under question in April, when in response to the company winning a task order to perform cleanup work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, losing bidder PMTech filed a challenge with SBA questioning whether SEC met the size standard for that procurement—having fewer than 500 employees. In May, the SBA ruled that SEC had met the standard. However, in response to an appeal filed by PMTech, the SBA later issued a determination in August finding that SEC exceeded the standard of 500 employees. SEC’s size status was again challenged this summer, after it was awarded DOE’s new environmental characterization services contract at the West Valley Demonstration Project. In response, unsuccessful bidders Navarro Research and Engineering and DeNuke filed a second size standard protest.

In both instances, the SBA determined that SEC no longer met the 500 employee size standard based on its relationship with American Radiation Services, Inc. (ARS), an 8(a) Native American-owned small business that SEC entered into a mentor-protégé agreement with in 2007. The SBA determined that the two companies are “affiliated,” and therefore ARS’s headcount should be added to SEC’s, thereby putting SEC over the 500 employee standard. SEC had challenged the SBA’s determinations, though, saying it had played no role in the management of ARS and that the two companies were not economically dependent on each other. While details of the SBA’s latest ruling are not set to be made public until early next year, agency spokeswoman Tiffani Shea Clements said SEC had been found to be a small business for the West Valley environmental characterization services procurement.

While SEC has moved forward with performing work at ORNL under the initially disputed cleanup task order, the SBA’s second determination had threatened the company’s wins of the new West Valley and ID/IQ contracts. In addition, if the SBA’s determination had been upheld, it could have significantly impacted SEC’s ability to compete for future cleanup contracts. The new West Valley

contract is set to be worth up to \$25 million over five years, and is intended to provide a variety of “comprehensive environmental task-based characterization services,” according to DOE. The new set of national small business set-aside ID/IQ contracts, under which task orders for various projects will be competed, are set to run for five years, with a total ceiling of \$926 million.

—Mike Nartker

DOE DEFERS \$6M IN FEE FOR CWI DUE TO SBW TREATMENT FACILITY DELAYS

Though Idaho cleanup contractor CH2M-WG Idaho has performed well on the project as a whole, delays in completing the Sodium-Bearing Waste Treatment (SBWT) Facility have led the Department of Energy to defer approximately \$6 million in provisional fee payment to the contractor in Fiscal Year 2010, according to information the Department released last week. In total, CWI earned approximately \$25.5 million in provisional fee for its work at the Idaho site, which includes facility D&D, soil remediation and waste disposition among other cleanup projects. “Overall CWI continues to deliver on its operational and environmental remediation projects in a high quality manner,” DOE said, adding, “While CWI and DOE continue to work towards successful completion of the Sodium Bearing Waste Treatment Project (SBWTP), construction delays continue to jeopardize the schedule.”

The provisional fee payments are intended to help DOE “more accurately project” CWI’s final fee determination, which will come at the end of its contract at the end of Fiscal Year 2012, according to Department spokeswoman Danielle Miller. Under CWI’s contract, final fee will be based on the total cost of completing the Idaho Cleanup Project versus what the contractor bid, with CWI eligible to earn a target fee of \$188.6 million and a maximum fee of \$310 million. CWI President and CEO John Fulton told *WC Monitor* last week that the deferred fee for the SBWT Facility, also known as the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, would likely be recovered given that CWI is significantly under budget for the bulk of its work. “Our under-run, even with IWTU being the problem, is still a couple hundred million dollars. We have a positive cost variance of \$270 million and that’s because it’s ICP total. IWTU is part of that, but it’s not the whole thing,” he said, adding, “We know that IWTU is very important to us. It’s important to DOE. So we take the deferral seriously. . . . They get our attention and we take corrective action when we get those deferrals.”

Facility ‘More Challenging Than People Thought’

The SBWT Facility is intended to process approximately 900,000 gallons of liquid waste remaining at the Idaho site’s tank farm for eventual disposal. The facility is necessary for DOE to be able to meet a commitment to the state of Idaho to have the waste treated by the end of 2012. While the bulk of the facility is finished, the schedule for completing construction has slipped several times in recent months, from September to November-December and now to January 2011 (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 53). The additional time needed to complete construction of the facility has led to concerns that the start-up of operations may also be pushed back and thereby threaten DOE’s ability to meet its commitment to the state of Idaho for treating the liquid waste. DOE officials have previously said they expect the facility to begin operations by August 2011, and that the liquid waste treatment campaign would take approximately 15 months to complete.

Explaining the recent delays in completing the facility, Fulton said previous estimates underestimated the challenge of the project. “The IWTU construction has pretty much been costing more than people thought and taking longer ever since it began. So from all along, the schedule has been a challenge because the original estimates that were done just underestimated the difficulty of the construction itself—the complexity of the construction,” he said. “The original estimates and the rebaselined estimates that were done . . . had underestimated the difficulty in getting this work done. So it’s just one of those things that’s kind of a one-of-a-kind, first-of-a-kind [project] that’s a lot more challenging than people thought. So yeah, we struggle with getting the construction complete.”

When asked if he believed construction would be completed in January, Fulton replied, “It’s hard for me to say. We expect to be done in January. But every time I’ve said that—I expected to be done in August, I expected to be done in November, I expected to be done in December—we haven’t been able to meet that because it’s still hard to exactly estimate how long it’s going to take to do some of this complex welding, complex fitting of pipe and deal with issues that come right at the end.”

Fulton did say, though, that he believed the facility would still be ready to begin operation by the end of August 2011, noting that some systems testing is already underway and is being conducted in parallel with completing construction. “So far we’ve been able to work around delays in construction by doing parallel activities. And so I’m pretty sure if we don’t finish construction, we’ll run out of chances to do that. But right now we’re still able to do that,” he said.

—Mike Nartker

SRS LIQUID WASTE CONTRACTOR EARNS \$34.7M FOR FIRST EVALUATION PERIOD

Savannah River Remediation, LLC, the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah River Site, earned \$34.7 million out of an available \$39.2 million in fee for the period of April-September 2010, according to information the Department of Energy released last week. The fee determination is the first for URS-led SRR since it became Savannah River's first dedicated liquid waste cleanup contractor last summer, according to Amy Caver, a spokeswoman for DOE's Savannah River Operations Office.

Under SRR's contract, the company is working to empty and close all 22 of Savannah River's noncompliant underground waste tanks—out of a total of 49 remaining tanks—by 2017. "SRR's notable progress toward achieving key cleanup milestones in the areas of sludge processing and vitrification, waste removal and preparation for tank closure, and the overall management of the Liquid Waste contract contributed to the total earned fee," DOE said.

Contractor Loses \$4.5M in Fee

The contractor lost \$4.5 million in fee due to "less than anticipated salt waste processing" in two facilities—the Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU), one of two interim systems used to treat salt waste taken from Savannah River's underground tanks for eventual disposal; and the Saltstone facility, which is used to convert the treated salt waste into a cement-like grout for on-site disposal, according to DOE. The fee reduction also takes into account "delays in construction of the Saltstone Disposal Units," DOE said, declining to provide additional details on the circumstances behind the lost fee.

While SRR has lost that \$4.5 million as fee, the contractor will be able to use that money to perform additional work in Fiscal Year 2011, according to Caver. "The \$4.5 [million] would be treated as any other uncosted funding and would become available as carryover to fund the LW program activities," she said in a written response. DOE also said that it would "continue to monitor contractor performance to ensure compliance in all facets of its contracts, the safe conduct of SRS operations, and the protection of Site employees, neighboring communities, and the environment."

—Mike Nartker

DOE SEEKS TASK PROPOSALS FOR NEW MOAB CLEANUP CONTRACT

The Department of Energy is moving forward with the recompetes of the cleanup contract for the Moab uranium mill tailings excavation project in Utah, issuing a Request for Task Proposals (RTP) earlier this month. The procurement is the first to be conducted under DOE's new set of national small business set-aside Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity cleanup contracts (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 46). According to DOE, the new Moab cleanup contract is set to run for four-and-three-quarter years with projected funding of approximately \$130 million. DOE plans to hold a pre-proposal conference and site tour Jan. 5-6, 2011, with bids due by Feb. 8, 2011.

The Moab cleanup project entails the removal of approximately 16 million tons of uranium mill tailings from a former uranium-ore processing facility near Moab, Utah, on the west bank of the Colorado River to a disposal site approximately 30 miles away. Work at the site is currently being performed by EnergySolutions under a four-year task order awarded in 2007. EnergySolutions was initially responsible for installing the infrastructure necessary to remove the material and the initial remediation of approximately 2 million tons of material. DOE has allocated the project an additional \$108 million in Recovery Act funds to double the amount of material disposed of by the end of Fiscal Year 2011. Since excavation work began in April 2009, more than 2 million tons of material have been disposed of, according to DOE.

New Contractor to Dispose of 3M Tons

The new Moab cleanup contractor will be responsible for disposing of more than 3 million tons of additional material, according to the RTP. Bids for the new contract will be evaluated on three criteria deemed equal in importance—technical approach; key personnel and organization; and past performance. While EnergySolutions will not be able to lead a bid for the recompetes of the Moab cleanup contract, it is partnered with small business TerranearPMC on one of the new small business set-aside ID/IQ contracts.

—Mike Nartker

DNFSB CALLS ON DEPT. OF ENERGY TO VERIFY WTP MIXERS' PERFORMANCE

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board earlier this month outlined a set of actions it believes the Department of Energy should take to verify that the pulse jet mixers to

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) extended through March 31, 2011. | Contract awarded to CH2M Hill Newport Nuclear, LLC, March 29, 2010. | 5.5 years/ \$592 million | Full and Open | Waste Disposal | DOE seeking new round of "best and final offers" from three teams. |
| Idaho Cleanup Project Recompete | Contract with CH2M-WG Idaho to expire in 2012. | Sources sought notice issued June. 24, 2010. | Undetermined/ Up to 10 years | Undetermined | Environmental Remediation, D&D, Waste Management | |
| NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE Security Services | Contract held by WSI expires in May 2011. | Solicitation seeking small business interest issued June 22. | 5 years/ \$300 million | Undetermined | Security Services | NNSA official said Nov. 9 that agency moving forward full and open competition. |
| NATIONAL LABORATORIES Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Office of Science) | UT-Battelle's contract runs out Sept. 30, 2012. | DOE has not announced plans for lab competition. | Undetermined | Unrestricted | Laboratory Management | |
| Sandia National Laboratories (NNSA) | Sandia Corp. (Lockheed Martin) contract runs out Sept. 30, 2012. | Request for Information released and then abruptly canceled Aug. 26. | Undetermined | Unrestricted | Laboratory Management | "Additional review" of RFI needed; RFI to be re-posted "soon," according to NNSA spokeswoman. |
| NNSA Combined Nuclear Production Contract (Y-12 National Security Complex, Pantex Plant and Savannah River Site tritium work) | Y-12 and Pantex contracts held by B&W-led teams expire Sept. 30, 2010; SRS tritium currently part of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions contract. | Extension to existing Y-12 and Pantex contracts of up to 18 months signed Sept. 30, 2010. | Undetermined | Full and Open | Management and Operation | According to July 15 notice on procurement Web site, draft Request for Proposals expected in "near future." |
| Integrated Construction Management | Part of M&O scope at each NNSA site. | One-on-ones held May 19-21 and June 7-9. | Undetermined | Full and Open | Construction Management | RFP expected by end of January. |
| OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE East Tennessee Technology Park | Contract with Bechtel Jacobs Co. set to end by June 2011. | Bids submitted Sept. 21, 2010. | 9 years/ \$1.8 - \$2.6 Billion | Full and Open | D&D, Environmental Remediation | |

PROCUREMENT TRACKER (Continued)

| PROJECT | CURRENT CONTRACT | STATUS | SIZE/VALUE | ELIGIBILITY | CAPABILITIES | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| PORTSMOUTH/PADUCAH PROJECT OFFICE DUF6 Conversion Facilities Operations | Contract with Uranium Disposition Services expires February 2011. | Contract awarded to Babcock & Wilcox Conversion Services, LLC Dec. 8, 2010. | 5 years/ \$428 million | Unrestricted | Facility Operations | |
| MISC. SITES/PROJECTS Moab Mill Tailings | Contract held by EnergySolutions set to expire mid-2011. | Request for Task Order Proposal issued Dec. 17, 2010. Bids due by Feb. 8, 2011. | 4.75 years/ \$130 million | ID/IQ Small Business Set-Aside | Environmental Remediation | |
| National Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quality Cleanup Contracts | Current set of ID/IQ contracts to expire April 6, 2010. | Contracts awarded to 11 companies Dec. 16, 2010. | 5 years/\$907 million | Unrestricted | Environmental Remediation, D&D, Waste Management, Regulatory Services | |
| West Valley Environmental Characterization Services | N/A | SEC notified of award July 8, 2010. | 5 years/\$25 million | Small Business Set-Aside | Characterization Services | SBA has determined SEC did not meet size standard use for protest. SEC challenging determination |
| West Valley Phase I Decommissioning | Contract held by West Valley Environmental Services set to expire mid-2011. | Final Request for Proposals issued Oct. 13, 2010. Bids due by Dec. 28, 2010. | 7 years/ \$420 million | Unrestricted | D&D, Environmental Remediation | |

be used at Hanford Waste Treatment Plant will work as intended. Among the measures called for in a formal recommendation sent to DOE Dec. 17—the second the Board issued this year—was the development of a large-scale test plan with schedules and milestones to address concerns raised by a variety of experts, as well as the development of simulants to represent the Hanford tank waste and the demonstration of an ability to obtain samples of material in the WTP’s vessels, among others. “Safe and reliable operation of the WTP is vital to cleanup of the high-level waste in the Hanford tank farms. This imperative requires that the pulse jet mixing and transfer systems relied upon in the WTP design perform reliably and effectively for decades of WTP operations,” DNFSB Chairman Peter Winokur told *WC Monitor* last week.

In its recommendation, the Board said that the testing performed to date on the WTP mixers “has been insufficient to establish, with confidence, that the pulse jet mixing and transfer systems will perform adequately at full scale.” Earlier this year, DOE announced plans to conduct large-scale tests on the mixers to help verify performance, though Winokur said that the scope, schedule and key milestones for such tests are still undefined. “The Board believes that the large-scale testing can resolve most of the Board’s concerns, but the technical issues with the performance of the mixing and transfer systems need be fully addressed and resolved early to enable DOE to meet its existing commitment to begin WTP operation in 2019,” Winokur said. He added, “The Board believes that its recommendation will assist the DOE in developing a test plan that resolves technical issues in the areas of large-scale testing, simulants for the testing, and adequacy of modeling of the performance of the mixing systems. The recommendation should help minimize future delays.”

DOE said last week that it was reviewing the Board’s recommendation. “The Department of Energy has received the DNFSB recommendation regarding Pulse Jet Mixing at the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) Project. We are developing our response based on project commitments made to technically resolve mixing concerns in our September response to the Board’s questions, in preparation for a Board public meeting on the WTP in October, preparing to perform Large Scale Testing as discussed at that Public Hearing, and our current schedules for implementing plans, which are being submitted as an update to the Public Record. Our efforts will continue through 2011,” DOE said.

Mixers Long an Issue of Concern

The pulse jet mixers, located in vessels in the WTP’s Pretreatment and High-Level Waste facilities, are intended to ensure that the waste taken from Hanford’s underground

tanks remains in solution as it moves through the plant. The mixers’ operation has been described as working akin to a turkey baster, with the waste repeatedly pumped up and shot back down to prevent solids from settling at the bottom of the vessels. Such settling could pose criticality and hydrogen generation concerns—an issue previously raised by the DNFSB. Since 2006, DOE and WTP project contractor Bechtel National have conducted additional testing on the mixers to obtain greater confidence in their performance, with most verified to be adequate. To finally close the mixing issue, which DOE declared completed this fall, design changes have been planned for some of the pulse jete mixer systems, vessel inspection and heel removal capabilities will be installed in some vessels and additional rounds of small- and large-scale tests will be conducted (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 No. 39).

What Will New Tests Achieve?

At a meeting near the Hanford site this fall, though, DNFSB staff expressed skepticism that the mixing issue had indeed been resolved (*WC Monitor*, Vol. 21 Nos. 43&44). Among the DNFSB staff’s concerns is what the planned large-scale tests will actually achieve. “Based on the testing performed to date, full-scale testing may simply demonstrate that the PJMs are only capable of mixing lower concentrations of solids than originally planned,” said DNFSB staff member Roy Kasdorf. “Large-scale testing may only demonstrate that the vessels will not mix solids sufficiently to prevent accumulation and indicate limitations on solids loading that may impact the project’s schedule.”

In its recommendation, the Board said the objective of the large-scale test plan developed by DOE should be “to define the limits of the WTP pulse jet mixing and transfer systems given the complete range of physical properties for the high-level waste stored in the Hanford Tank Farms.” The plan should include design of waste simulants, design of the prototypic mixing systems and the transfer system for the large-scale test, and criteria for review and interpretation of the test results, according to the Board. “The test plan schedule should be constructed such that results from the testing can be used to inform WTP process vessel design decisions. The large-scale test platform must integrate the scaling of the mixing and transfer systems such that the scaling of the test platform is technically defensible,” the Board said.

Modeling Work Also a Concern

The Board also called on DOE to complete verification of the computational models used on the WTP project to help advance design work based on the results of the large-scale tests. “Any use of computer simulations must be techni-

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Darrel Kohlhorst, *President and General Manager, B&W Y-12*

Stephen Younger, *President, NSTec, Nevada Test Site*

Mike Butchko, *Chief Operating Officer, NSTec, Nevada Test Site*

Chris Gentile, *Vice President for NNSA Programs, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Frank Miller, *Vice President, the Cohen Group; former Bush Administration National Security Council Defense Policy and Arms Control Director*

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Thomas D'Agostino, *Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, U.S. Dept. of Energy*

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- Putting in Place **Management Contracts for Critical Sites** Within the U.S. Weapons Complex—Y-12/Pantex, Sandia National Laboratories—and Meeting NNSA Construction Needs.
- The Path Forward for Implementing the **New START Treaty**;
- Challenges to **Certifying U.S.-Russian Nuclear Weapons Stockpiles** Within the Framework of the START Treaty;
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The rate for Summit attendees at the Sheraton Crystal City is **\$189.00** 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 11.5%).

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cally defensible, and the limits of each computational fluid dynamics simulation need to be well understood to prevent potential safety issues from arising during operations,” the Board said. DOE also needs to develop “functional design criteria” for the heel removal and visual inspection systems to be installed in some vessels, as well as demonstrate the capability and limits of such systems in the large-scale tests, the Board said.

In addition, DOE should identify the technical and safety risks that will remain unresolved at the completion of the large-scale testing and development risk management strategies to “ensure that each remaining risk will have little, if any, potential impact on DOE’s ability to begin WTP operations safely and consistent with existing commitments,” the Board’s recommendation says.

—Mike Nartker

AS DOE CONTRACTORS ABSORB PAY FREEZE NEWS, EXPERTS WEIGH IMPACT

The Department of Energy’s move to freeze salaries and bonuses for approximately 75,000 contractor employees across the DOE complex isn’t expected to have a significant impact on the ability of contractors to attract and retain top talent, according to executive recruiting specialists and industry officials. But the salary maneuver could have a larger impact on mid-level employees, potentially speeding up the ‘brain drain’ that is facing the nation’s nuclear weapons laboratories, and it risks torpedoing morale at a time when many parts of the Department are facing budget cuts, the experts said.

Following the decision by President Barack Obama to freeze federal salaries, Energy Secretary Steven Chu earlier this month announced the plan to freeze contractor salaries and bonuses, though it’s unclear how much money is expected to be saved from the maneuver. The freeze is not likely to stop contractors from enticing top managers with packages that typically aren’t reimbursed by the government anyway. “These are the positions that typically help companies both hang on to and manage existing contracts and also win new contracts,” said Keith Wing, a principal in the business management and human capital consulting firm KeySource Group, Inc. “I think there will be a very select set of case-based decisions where companies will have to do the thing to protect their territory or protect their opportunity to win new business.” Mid-level employees can expect to feel the pain of the pay freeze the most, said John Bradburne, a principal at Janis-Bradburne Executive Recruiting, LLC. “It’s that layer of folks below the key personnel, the second tier and third tier, that are

going to be affected by this and that is where you might run into some challenges,” he said.

Adding to Uncertainty

The pay freeze comes at a difficult time for many DOE employees. While budgets for the National Nuclear Security Administration budgets are rising, and are expected to increase even more in future years, other DOE programs are expected to face budget tightening. That includes the Office of Environmental Management, which is bracing for the impact of decreased budgets and the end of Recovery Act funding.

Republicans have also pledged to roll back funding when they take control of the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, creating further uncertainty about the economic climate facing many DOE programs. “During this time period where the pay freeze is going to be in effect, there are going to be these questions coming into play about what’s going to happen to next year’s budget,” Wing said. “Coupled with this, that now creates a much more significant risk and threat for this industry. There are some particular threats there, especially on the EM side of the house. That coupled with this could create a lot more instability I think.”

Morale, Safety a Concern

Bradburne said that instability could bring about issues with morale of the existing workforce. “The big thing always is to make sure that you maintain the safety culture that keeps people from getting hurt,” Bradburne said. “And if I were running one of those sites today and were faced with this edict, I would want to make sure that none of my folks got hurt.” At Oak Ridge Associated Universities, which manages DOE’s Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, President Andy Page attempted to boost morale and address employee concerns soon after the pay freeze was announced. All ORAU employees, and not just those that do work involving the DOE-sponsored ORISE facility, will be subject to the pay freeze, Page said. “I know this message may be hard to accept, but ORAU is an organization that exists and is dedicated to serving the national interests of our nation,” he said. “It’s incumbent upon all of us to share in making the sacrifices it asks of us from time to time. Just remember. We are ORAU! We have seen tough times before and weathered them; we will now do it again. The true character of any high performing organization is always tested in times like this. I have all the trust and confidence that each of you will stay the course and we will emerge together a stronger organization from all of this!”

Freeze Follows Fed Example

The pay freeze is scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, 2011, DOE said, though an exception can be made for bonuses and salary increases that have already been approved. Earlier this year, Obama announced a plan to freeze the salaries of approximately 1.9 million federal workers in a move that is expected to save the government \$5 billion over two years. "As our nation continues to recover from these challenging economic times, households and small businesses across the country are making sacrifices," Chu said in a statement explaining the pay freeze. "In this spirit, we are asking our contractor employees, who are doing important research, operations, and environmental cleanup work, to join the federal workforce in playing a part." Overall, Wing suggested that the overall concern for employees was likely low—for now. "There is a possibility that it creates a little instability, but I am just not inclined to believe it's going to be significant in the near-term," Wing said. "But 10 to 12 months out, people are going to want to see what's now going to happen in the next time frame."

Exacerbating the 'Brain Drain'?

The pay freeze doesn't apply to members of unions or collective bargaining units, and while top managers aren't likely to be impacted, mid-level employees might take the

opportunity to look around for other jobs, experts suggested. Likewise, DOE contractors could have trouble recruiting and retaining workers when employees are faced with the choice of retirement or other jobs outside of the DOE marketplace. "Somebody that is considering whether to retire this year or next year, they might say, 'I'm at the maximum salary level, I'm going to take my 'out' because I can't increase my lot anymore,'" Wing said. "That's where there is some risk."

Experts predict that the risk could be most severe at the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories, which are facing their own human capital challenges as veterans of the Cold War reach retirement age. "Those people at say the national labs that are at the back end of their careers, that are trying to think whether they should work another year or two, this is telling them you may want to think again about taking that early out or taking that exit package if you can get it," Wing said. Chu acknowledged the potential for recruitment and retention issues at the laboratories in his statement, but he suggested the pay freeze wouldn't have a significant impact on the labs. "Our national labs, the country's crown jewels for leading research and development, will continue to attract and retain the nation's top scientists, and pursue some of the most important discoveries that will lead us into the 21st century," he said.

—Todd Jacobson and Mike Nartker

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.

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WEAPONS COMPLEX MONITOR RATES 2010's...

Winners

- **Fluor.** By winning the largest cleanup contract awarded in 2010—the \$2 billion Portsmouth D&D project—Fluor’s presence on this year’s winners list was assured. After not winning a big DOE job for a decade, Fluor was the surprise winner at SRS in 2008 and has now parlayed that success into a win at Portsmouth. The question for Fluor next year, though, is will it be able to continue the momentum with the new ETTP and West Valley contracts?
- **B&W.** B&W Technical Services had a solid run of successful contracting efforts this year, winning the new operating contract for the DUF6 plants and being part of teams that won the Portsmouth D&D and new Paducah cleanup contracts. B&W was also able to hold on at Idaho’s AMWTP thanks to DOE’s continuing delays in awarding the new managing contract there.
- **LATA.** Los Alamos Technical Associates was this year’s small business prime contracting winner, picking up the new cleanup contract at Paducah and the demolition of Oak Ridge’s K-33 building.
- **Mound.** 2010 was the year EM was able to “close” the book on its closure sites by finally completing the cleanup of the Mound site. While Mound hasn’t been heralded like other closure sites, such as Rocky Flats and Fernald, DOE is probably just happy it’s done after the bulk of work was completed in 2006.
- **ID/IQ Bidders.** What was the easiest way to win a contract in EM this year? Bid on the new set of ID/IQs. Eleven companies bid on the unrestricted set—11 companies won contracts. Twelve companies bid on the small business set-asides—12 companies won contracts. Apparently the only discriminator in this procurement was a pulse. The actual value of the task orders, though, that’s another story. Don’t spend all the fee in one place, everybody!

Losers

- **EnergySolutions.** You know your company has had a rough 2010 when the year starts with your founder’s abrupt resignation and ends with your new CEO acknowledging you won’t be leading bids for new cleanup contracts in the future. Continued success at Moab couldn’t make up for the fact that over the course of 2010, EnergySolutions was part of unsuccessful bids for the Portsmouth D&D contract, DUF6 operating contracts, the new Paducah cleanup contract and AMWTP contract (under protest).
- **URS at SPRU.** URS may have done good work at other cleanup sites this year, but it’s likely to be remembered for one thing—facing the risk of termination from the SPRU D&D project. A set of contamination incidents that occurred this fall has threatened DOE’s goal of completing the cleanup of SPRU by the end of FY 2011 and gave EM some unwelcome national media attention.
- **AMWTP Bidders.** Like Sisyphus rolling his rock up the hill only to see it come rolling back down, the bidders for the new AMWTP managing contract keep submitting ‘best and final offers’ only to see the procurement drag on...and on...and on...
- **West Valley Bidders.** Bidders on the new cleanup contract at West Valley have grown increasingly frustrated as they’ve seen DOE take a once-simple fee approach and make it more complicated with each subsequent amendment. DOE also decided to radically shake up how bids will be evaluated just weeks before they’re due—which is now three days after Christmas. Happy Holidays!
- **PMTech.** Poor PMTech. The company fought an intense struggle this year to try to win a cleanup task order at Oak Ridge—involving protests to the GAO and SBA and even a lawsuit—only to be unsuccessful in the end. A year of challenges with no contract to show for it.

At the DOE Operations Offices/Facilities

AT RIVER PROTECTION WORKERS CUT INTO WASTE TANK

Hanford workers have installed a 42-inch diameter riser in Tank C-107 after making the largest cut ever into a Department of Energy tank storing high-level radioactive waste. “It’s a great accomplishment,” said Dave Brock-

man, manager of the DOE Office of River Protection. The larger riser will allow waste retrieval with the Mobile Arm Retrieval System, or MARS, a much larger and more robust robotic arm than has been used previously. Hanford

officials and Hanford regulators believe it holds promise to empty leak-prone single-shell tanks more efficiently and more completely.”All testing to date shows this is the method of the future,” said Kent Smith, deputy project manager of retrieval and closure operations for Washington River Protection Solutions, the Hanford tank farms contractor.

Cut Took More Than a Day to Complete

Cutting a 55-inch diameter hole into the top of the tank took about 25 hours and then it remained open for about 90 minutes, much of that time with a plug in it, before the new riser was installed. “It went about as smooth as I’ve ever seen anything this complex go in some 20 years of doing this,” Smith said. He credited more than a year of planning and preparation and extensive tests to choose the cutting method that would be safest for workers, the environment and the tank. In addition, a structural analysis was done to see if workers could safely cut into a 65-year-old tank, he said. There was no contamination out of the containment area during the cut, he said. Exposure to workers was limited to less than 20 percent of the work plan estimate.

To cut the hole remotely, workers used a conventional technology that employs high-pressure water with a fine grit of garnet to cut evenly and precisely through the 15 inches of concrete and rebar of the tank’s dome, after testing three types of abrasive and different cutting mechanisms. The water flowed through the cutting equipment at a rate of about three gallons per minute at a pressure of 48,000 psi, cutting 8 inches per hour. “Even though this technology is commonly used in industry, it has never been used in quite this way,” said WRPS project manager Thom Myer. “We brought in AK Services of Boston, a specialty subcontractor that is used to working in hazardous environments, trained their personnel to our safety standards and provided the support they needed to do the work.” WRPS went ahead with the work last week despite wintery weather. “It’s another example of the harsh conditions we work in,” Brockman said. “It was snowing and blowing and they got it done.”

Prep Work Began Last Month

Around the first of November, workers began digging up six to seven feet of soil covering the tank using hand shovels to create a hole about 30 feet across. Before the old riser was cut out, a hole was drilled into the tank dome so air would flow into the tank and protect workers from chemical vapors. Air samplers were set up inside the containment tent that surrounded the project and a ventilation system was in constant operation to draw air back into

the tank and reduce the potential for contamination to escape.

Prior to the start of the cut, the portion of the tank dome to be removed was bolted to a crane to prevent it from falling into the tank when the cut was complete. Once it was cut free, the plug, along with its associated cutting equipment was lifted out of its hole and immediately wrapped in a plastic sleeve to contain contamination. Ground penetrating radar had been used to penetrate the concrete top of the tank and map out the rebar. Workers needed to avoid the rebar as they drilled into the tank dome to attach the anchor bolts to remove the lid. “It was important that the anchors avoided the rebar if they were to carry the load of the material being removed,” said WRPS construction manager Pat Howard. The plug that was removed will be studied and tested as part of the single-shell tank integrity program and then will be taken to the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility in central Hanford.

New Waste Retrieval System to be Installed Next Year

A global positioning system was used to guide the new riser into the hole in the tank. It has a shield plug bolted to its opening as well as thick gasket material around the outside to seal the hole. The work to remove the old riser and install a new one “shows again that challenging work can be done safely at tank farms, and this is another step forward to getting waste out of the single-shell tanks,” said Nancy Uziemblo of the Washington State Department of Ecology. “The progress on installation and use of the MARS equipment is encouraging and will be another tool in the waste retrieval toolbox.”

The mobile arm retrieval system is expected to be installed in late February and retrieval of about 247,000 gallons of waste from Tank C-107 is scheduled to begin in the summer. “We need to put equipment in with the power and force to break up, dissolve and suspend solids in a waste stream and then pump it a half mile uphill to a double shell waste tank,” Smith said. The former 12-inch riser “was a huge design constraint and we removed that,” he said. The robotic arms that had been designed previously were too small to do the job, said Chris Kemp, DOE deputy federal project director. “The robotic arms that were robust enough to do the job wouldn’t fit into the tanks,” Kemp said. “The only option to increase retrieval efficiency was to cut a larger access into the tank.” The arm of the MARS system can rotate 360 degrees and reach 40 feet. At Tank C-107, MARS will use a water cannon to move waste toward a pump and will have small nozzles with high pressure and low volume to break up materials.

AT RIVER PROTECTION WORKERS INSTALL WTP CRANE COMPONENTS

Crews have installed major components for the largest crane that will be used during operation of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant. The components for the 30-ton-capacity overhead crane were installed at the Pretreatment Facility by lowering them through the roof into the canyon-like center that runs the length of the building, the largest at the vit plant. The canyon will serve as a hot cell and the equipment in the canyon will be maintained using remote-handled equipment and the crane. “The crane will be absolutely essential to maintaining the process equipment housed in the Pretreatment Facility,” said Ty Troutman, Bechtel National area project manager for the facility.

The crane is composed of four major components—a bridge, trolley, slewer (a rotating overhead base) and a telescoping mast with manipulator arm. The components were designed for maximum versatility of the crane, allowing it to move and rotate in all directions. The manipulator arm and seven hooks, which extend and retract, will provide additional functionality. Using a rail system installed this fall, the crane will be able to move the length of the 400-foot-long hot cell, as well as in and out of maintenance areas. It was manufactured by PaR Systems in St. Paul, Minn.

Engineers and construction workers prepared for the installation of the crane by creating a comprehensive rigging and lift plan and reconfiguring the crane used to lift the components through the facility roof. The reconfiguration enabled workers to safely maneuver around already installed rebar and concrete. “This accomplishment is part of our continued transition from civil construction to mechanical installations and further demonstrates our commitment to reaching construction complete in 2016 and operations in 2019,” said Wahed Abdul, Department of Energy area project manager for the facility. Construction of the Pretreatment Facility is currently 34 percent complete.

AT OAK RIDGE DOE IG EXAMINES Y-12 ARRA-FUNDED CLEANUP WORK

An old wound got reopened with the release of the Department of Energy’s Office of Inspector General’s Dec. 21 audit of Recovery Act-funded cleanup projects at Oak Ridge’s Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, which received about \$216 million for demolition of buildings and other cleanup-related activities. The report had mostly good things to say about progress on the cleanup projects at Y-12. Of the seven Recovery Act projects at Y-12, the IG took a close look at three of them, and said that each of them was ahead of schedule and under budget. The IG also

LAW Facility Receives Last Autosampling Components

The vitrification plant also has received the last and most significant pieces of its autosampling system for the Low-Activity Waste Facility. It was designed by Energy-Solutions and fabricated by Mid-Columbia Engineering, both of Richland, Wash. The system will ensure the glass produced at the plant meets regulatory requirements and standards. It will take samples throughout the vitrification process and transport them to the Analytical Laboratory for testing and evaluation. About 10,000 samples will be analyzed annually from the Pretreatment, High-Level Waste and Low-Activity Waste facilities. The waste will be sampled using remotely operated robotic arms inside shielded boxes within the facilities. The samples will be deposited into 15-milliliter bottles, which will be encased in tightly sealed carriers. The carriers then will be transported to the lab through a pneumatic transfer system, similar to those used at a bank drive-through. Stainless steel pipes will run between each facility and the lab and transport the samples at 25 feet per second.

Last week, the vitrification plant received the two autosamplers, each of which contains a robotic arm and shielded box, that will be housed in the Low-Activity Waste Facility. The plant also received nearly 150 carriers and more than 6,500 bottles. “The ongoing receipt and installation of equipment like the autosampling system are key to keeping the project on track to complete the vit plant’s LAW Facility, lab and balance of facilities by 2016,” said Dale Knutson, DOE federal project director for the vit plant. The Low Activity Waste Facility is the furthest along of the four major nuclear facilities at the vit plant. It is nearly 65 percent complete. Autosampling equipment for the Pretreatment and High-Level Waste facilities are expected to arrive in 2012.

found that Y-12 was in compliance with Recovery Act requirement for segregating the Recovery Act funds from other operating money and keeping up with the extensive reporting guidelines.

However, the audit also raised old concerns about Y-12 taking the necessary precautions to make sure illegal aliens don’t gain access to sensitive areas. The report said Y-12 did not adopt in a timely way specific contracting verification rules to make sure subcontractors were not inadver-

tently hiring illegal aliens or allowing them at work sites inside the nuclear weapons plant. According to the IG report, Y-12 did not begin incorporating the appropriate terms and conditions into the Recovery Act subcontracts until September 2010—nearly a year after the requirement went into effect. “This is significant given the risk of illegal alien workers gaining access to Y-12,” the report said. “The risk of such access is more than notional as demonstrated by the Office of Inspector General report ‘Security Access Controls at the Y-12 National Security Complex’ (June 2005) ... which found that, in the past, illegal aliens had gained access to Y-12 on multiple occasions.”

In its June 2005 report, DOE’s Inspector General said, “Specifically, we determined 16 construction workers were illegal aliens. Some of these workers acquired facility access badges and were permitted access to the main Y-12 site, and others were permitted access to an adjacent ... leased facility.” The report said the foreign workers had multiple opportunities to acquire information on construction of the leased facility, including documents labeled “official use only” and “unclassified controlled nuclear information.”

Proper Controls in Place, Y-12 Says

According to the new IG report, Y-12 managers noted that other controls were in place and that even if unverified workers had gained access to the site, they did not pose a security risk because Recovery Act work areas were “extensively prescreened to identify and remove and segregate classified information or materials prior to the beginning of work, and individuals who did not have a security clearance were required to be escorted at all times.” While those controls at Y-12 may have been help-

ful and “beneficial,” the IG audit found that they did not provide the independent verification of the “E-verify” system mandated by federal regulations. “Had E-Verify been fully employed, the risk of illegal aliens working at Y-12 would be further reduced,” the report said.

Steven Wyatt, a federal spokesman at Y-12, said there is “no evidence whatsoever” that any illegal aliens have worked on Recovery Act projects at Y-12. In response to the IG report, he said by e-mail, “We are pleased that the IG Audit noted the success that we have achieved in managing Recovery Act work at Y-12, with all projects ahead of schedule and under budget, and with no significant project management problems identified. Because of our excellent performance, we received an additional \$29 million of follow-on Recovery Act related work.”

Wyatt also said: “On the citizenship issue, while we agree with the Inspector General that the insertion into the subcontracts of the E-verify requirement could have been faster, we note that there is no evidence whatsoever that any illegal aliens have worked on ARRA projects at Y-12. Since 2005, we have required positive proof of citizenship for all new workers onsite at Y-12. This requirement included each new worker to present either an active passport or certified birth certificate with additional photo identification. Also, all buildings and other areas associated with ARRA work were extensively prescreened to identify and remove or segregate any classified information or materials prior to the beginning of Recovery Act work. Uncleared workers associated with these projects are under escort at all times; all other workers in areas involving access to classified information are required to have clearances that would provide a full background check that includes a full verification of citizenship.”

AT SAVANNAH RIVER MORE THAN 300 CHOOSE TO LEAVE SRNS

The bulk of the more than 300 Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employees who chose to participate in a voluntary layoff program were scheduled to leave the site last week. In total, 328 SRNS employees chose to participate in the “self select” program—the first phase of a planned three-phase workforce restructuring effort intended to reduce SRNS’s workforce by 1,400 employees. Those employees who voluntarily chose to leave SRNS will receive one week of severance pay for every year of eligible service, up to a maximum of 26 weeks, as well as job search assistance.

leave was significantly more than the approximately 100 SRNS had estimated would participate in the self-select program. “Every one of those 328 has their own reason [for leaving],” SRNS spokesman Will Callicott said last week.

Involuntary Layoffs to Begin Next Year

In January, SRNS plans to move forward with the first phase of involuntary layoffs, set to target 600 to 700 additional employees, according to a message sent to employees. Those affected by the involuntary layoffs are set to be notified by the end of February, and will receive the same severance pay as those who voluntarily left. “I know these are difficult times for all of us. But, the actions

we are taking are necessary for the long-term health of our company and our mission at Savannah River Site,” SRNS

President and CEO Garry Flowers said in the Dec. 16 message to employees.

AT SAVANNAH RIVER SRNS AWARDS \$6.3 MILLION SUBCONTRACT

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the managing contractor at the Savannah River Site, has awarded a \$6.3 million subcontract to Grade South to close the site’s P-Area Ash Basin and a nearby outfall. The project, to be conducted with Recovery Act funds, entails the placing of stockpiled material into the 25-acre basin in layers 10-to-12 feet deep and then installing an earthen cap consisting of four inches of soil, according to an SRNS release. Grade South will also be responsible for removing contaminated soil from the five-acre outfall and replacing it with clean soil and sod.

The subcontractor is expected to mobilize to begin work this month, with the project to be completed by July 2011. “SRS continues to direct procurement opportunities to local small businesses, a commitment that is putting Americans across the Central Savannah River Area to work,” Greg Ryan, SRNS procurement manager of the Recovery Act Portfolio, said in the release. “The Recovery Act program at SRS has provided a real opportunity for smaller businesses to provide the site with skills and expertise that are unique to small specialty contractors.”

AT WEST VALLEY WORKERS COMPLETE GROUNDWATER PROJECT

Workers have completed a Recovery Act-funded project at the West Valley Demonstration Project intended to help address groundwater contamination there. The project, which cost approximately \$6 million, involved the installation of an 850-foot-long permeable treatment wall filled with zeolite to contain a strontium-90 groundwater contamination plume. As groundwater passes through the treatment wall, the contamination will be captured by the zeolite material. The contamination resulted from a commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing leak at West Valley in the 1970s, according to the Department of Energy.

The use of the permeable treatment wall is expected to cost significantly less than a pump-and-treat system to address the groundwater contamination—\$7 million versus more than \$60 million over a 20-year period, according to DOE. “This is a major milestone for the West Valley Demonstration Project,” DOE Federal Project Director Mark Bellis said in a Dec. 22 press release. “The effective use of Recovery Act funding allowed the installation of the treatment wall. This project not only prevents contaminated groundwater from leaving the site, but it also provides a boost to the local economy and gets us one step closer to site decommissioning.”■

Wrap Up

IN DOE

Ben Harp has been named the Department of Energy’s Hanford Waste Treatment Plant startup and commissioning integration manager. Previously, Harp was responsible for the engineering division for the Hanford tank farms project and the nuclear safety division for both the tank farms and also the vitrification plant projects. In his new role, Harp is responsible for integration of the vitrification plant and the tank operations contractor to ensure successful startup, commissioning and eventual operation of the plant. This integration will create a “one system” model for delivery of the vit plant and elements of the tank farms project associated with feed stream delivery, plus acceptance of fit plant products as an integrated system to ensure consistent waste feed, waste processing, and product delivery during operations. Previously, Harp served as the deputy assistant manager for tank farms.

IN THE NNSA

Leadership of the largest labor organization in Oak Ridge will change at the first of the year. Steve Jones, a long-time pipefitter at Y-12, will become President of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council, effective Jan. 13. He will succeed Garry Whitley, an electrician who’s retiring after four years at the ATLC helm and decades of work in Oak Ridge. The ATLC is an umbrella labor organization that represents 16 international unions and several thousand hourly workers at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Jones, who served as the labor organization’s Recording Secretary for the past five years, heads a slate of new officers elected by acclamation earlier this month by ATLC delegates. Other officers include Carl Wright, 1st Vice President (sheet metal worker at ORNL); Mike Thompson, 2nd Vice President (teamster at Y-12); Eric Nolan, Recording Secretary (insulator at Y-12); and John Trotter, Treasurer (instrument technician at ORNL).■

Calendar

December

24-02 EM PUBLS CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

January 2011

12 Meeting: Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board; Frank H. Rogers Building, 755 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nev.; 5 p.m.; Contact: 702-657-9088 or nssab@nv.doe.gov; Information: <http://nv.energy.gov/NSSAB/default.aspx>.

17 EM PUBLS CLOSED FOR MLK JR. HOLIDAY

February

1 Call for Papers: Institute of Nuclear Materials Management 52nd Annual Meeting; Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort, Palm Desert, Calif.; Information: www.inmm.org.

9 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>.

10-11 Meeting: Hanford Advisory Board; Information: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab>.

15-18

THE THIRD ANNUAL NUCLEAR DETERRENCE SUMMIT

Strengthening U.S. Capabilities to Prevent the Spread and Use of Nuclear Weapons

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
Arlington, Virginia

Keynote Speakers...

Daniel Poneman, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Energy

Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary, Arms Control and International Security, U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Sergey Ivanovich Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States

Thomas D'Agostino, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, U.S. Dept. of Energy

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

18 Call for Papers Deadline: Tenth Annual Carbon Capture & Sequestration Conference; An ExchangeMonitor Publications & Forums Event; David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA; Register online at <http://www.carbonsq.com>.

21 EM PUBLS CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY

27-March 3 Conference: Waste Management 2011: *Global Achievements and Challenges in Waste Management*; Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, Ariz.; Information: www.smsym.org.

March

9 Meeting: Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board; Frank H. Rogers Building, 755 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nev.; 5 p.m.; Contact: 702-657-9088 or nssab@nv.doe.gov; Information: <http://nv.energy.gov/NSSAB/default.aspx>.

15-16 Workshop: 2011 DOE Project Management Workshop; Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; Information: <http://management.energy.gov/oecm.htm>; Contact: John Makepeace, John.Makepeace@hq.doe.gov.

31-April 1 Meeting: Hanford Advisory Board; Information: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab>.

April

12-14 Meeting: DOE Office of Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board Chairs; Green Valley Ranch, 2300 Paseo Verde Pkwy., Henderson, Nev., 89052.

May

2-5

TENTH ANNUAL CCS CONFERENCE

David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The 2011 Conference follows in the footsteps of the past nine events, maintaining the objectives to:

- Focus on carbon capture, separation and sequestration technologies that are being or could be deployed in the U.S. and North America;
- Provide a forum for the exchange of experience among U.S. and international scientific and engineering communities working on such technologies and systems;
- Facilitate the necessary dialogue between technology developers/purveyors, industry and the public on the development and deployment of viable technologies; and
- Share experience on developing the necessary capacity within the public and private sector to move the technology base forward.

Bookmark www.carbonsq.com for Program Details

For Information Call 1-877-303-7367 or email: carbonsq@exchangemonitor.com

10-12 Conference: The 12th Annual Department of Energy Small Business Conference & Expo; Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Mo.; Information: <http://smallbusinessconference.energy.gov/>.

11 Meeting: Nevada Site-Specific Advisory Board; Frank H. Rogers Building, 755 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nev.; 5 p.m.; Contact: 702-657-9088 or nssab@nv.doe.gov; Information: <http://nv.energy.gov/NSSAB/default.aspx>.

(Changes from previous Calendar in Bold)