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WRAP-UP: ECA PEER EXCHANGE ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES

ECA members, DOE officials, industry executives, and others gathered in Washington, DC on May 12-13 to discuss the future of the cleanup mission at DOE and other environmental management issues. High ranking officials including Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance David Klaus and Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary Frank Marcinowski provided updates and presented insights to members on current issues and the coming presidential transition. Members also had the opportunity to hear from DOE Senior Advisor Mary Louise Wagner who provided an update on NE's consent-based



Congressman Mike Simpson

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DOE SHOULD STUDY THE REAL IMPACTS TO COMMUNITIES WHEN CREATING NEW DISPOSAL SITES

Several ECA members are dealing with the same issue that the Village of Piketon raised in its recent resolution (for more see the story on page 2)—namely what constitutes meaningful community involvement in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandated environmental analyses that are conducted by DOE. The analysis address two questions: (1) what are the environmental impacts of DOE actions to construct a new disposal cell or landfill on the DOE site (which is being cleaned up under CERCLA) on the affected community (socioeconomic, transportation, health, safety, emergency response, water, etc.);

and (2) how and to what extent is the community engaged in the decision-making process (versus briefing and taking comments). NEPA and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensations, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) each provide a clear role for the community. But the NEPA process of community involvement is more extensive and participatory at each stage. To date, DOE has resisted the NEPA process, saying that since the cleanup at these sites is being undertaken pursuant to CERCLA, a separate NEPA action does not need to be undertaken. This NEPA issue

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DOE Should Study The Real Impacts to Communities when creating new Disposal Sites

is one that has been argued between DOE, DOD, EPA, DOJ and other federal agencies and ECA will continue to look at the issue more in-depth. The community goal of asking DOE to study and engage

the community on the impact to the community and environment of the new action by DOE (as outlined and requested by the Village of Piketon and others) continues to be a basic tenant of community involvement.

What do you think? Please send an email to ECA at Sharon.worley@energyca.org to let us know your thoughts on this issue. We plan to also provide a more detailed summary for your consideration in next month's ECA Bulletin.

PIKETON VILLAGE TO DOE: WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITY

In the last few weeks, the Piketon Village Council approved a five-page resolution detailing its concerns with and requesting action be taken to establish a better relationship between the local government and DOE. This comes as plans progress for the creation of an on-site waste disposal cell for cleanup work at the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

"We expect the DOE to show us the respect they have shown other energy communities and to, for the first time, pay the village a visit to keep us updated concerning the on-site disposal cell," Piketon Mayor Billy Spencer said, according to the [Chillicothe Gazette](#).

The absence of DOE representatives at important community events, including a town hall meeting last fall, have been a concern for Pike County officials, village representatives, and those working at the DOE site. The resolution requests assistance in the pursuance of a grant from DOE to allow third-party assessment of the socioeconomic effect of the disposal cell. Communication is cited as another concern and the village requested a quarterly report to the council from a DOE representative on the cleanup project. The council also wants DOE to establish a public information center accessible to community members for educational purposes about safety controls, potential hazards and various insights about the site and its history.

The resolution also states the council will provide public support for construction of the waste disposal cell if DOE commits to eight conditions:

- No nuclear or hazardous waste would be accepted into the cell from anywhere other than the on-site cleanup.
- All existing landfills within the Perimeter Road would be consolidated.
- All existing plumes within the Perimeter Road would be consolidated.
- A concerted effort would be made to recover and recycle nickel with nickel barrier material prohibited from disposal in the cell.
- No depleted uranium hexafluoride material would be permitted in any form in the on-site disposal cell.
- A DOE land use plan would be created for the site similar to one that was created for the Miamisburg Mound facility.
- DOE would commit to reinvest federal resources in the village that would provide "residents a comparable and equivalent future economic opportunity as Oak Ridge (Tennessee)."
- The name of the facility would be changed from US DOE Portsmouth to US DOE Piketon since Piketon is the site's host community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



It's June, which means the congressional appropriations process has undoubtedly stalled, though not for a lack of trying. To date, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have voted on ten out of the twelve appropriations bills. Only two however, the military construction and energy and water (E&W) funding bills, have been passed by both the House and the Senate. The military construction conference report was passed by the House during the week of June 20, but there are currently no indications that a conference report for energy spending is forthcoming.

The controversies that slowed the process this year have been widely reported. Conventional wisdom inside-the-beltway is that a short-term continuing resolution will be necessary before the start of the fiscal year on October 1. A comprehensive omnibus spending bill would subsequently be completed during a lame duck congressional session after the elections and before the start of the new year.

Energy and Water Appropriations

The Senate passed its version of the E&W appropriations bill on May 12. It totaled \$37.5 billion and provided \$12.9 billion for nuclear security, \$6.4 billion for environmental management activities, and just over \$1 billion for the Office of Nuclear Energy. The Department of Energy was provided \$30.7 billion in total.

The House passed its version of the bill shortly after the Senate on May 26. Funding levels were close to Senate levels, though slightly lower. The House bill totals \$37 billion, \$12.8 billion for nuclear security, \$6.15 billion for environmental management activities, and \$1 billion for nuclear energy. E&W Appropriations Subcommittee Chairmen Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Mike Simpson (R-ID) have both suggested working out differences would not be an arduous process.

A full break down of energy-related spending can be found in the chart of page 4.

National Defense Authorization

The Senate approved its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 on Tuesday, June 14 by a vote of 85-13. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has expressed hope that conference negotiations with the House could be wrapped up before the congressional summer recess begins in mid-July, but he admits that it will be difficult. Election-year politics will likely delay any compromise measure until after November. The House passed its version of the NDAA in late May. The White House has threatened to veto the NDAA in its current form, due in part to an absence to authorize certain proposed reforms and lack of a new base realignment and closure (BRAC) round to take place in 2019. The NDAA has been signed into law every year for the last 53 years.

The NDAA authorizes nearly \$6.1 billion for DOE environmental management activities, \$13.25 billion for nuclear security, and provides \$40 million for research and development of technologies that could speed up DOE cleanup efforts.

Senate Energy Bill Still in Play

S. 2012, the [North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016](#), passed the Senate by an overwhelmingly bipartisan margin in late April. The House passed its version on May 25 and the next step is to resolve disagreements between the chambers. The bill's chief architect, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) has expressed hope that a conference committee could be appointed in early July but wants assurances that no filibuster will slow the process. The energy bill seeks to allow National Lab directors to use technology transfer funds to carry out early technology demonstration actions. It also requires DOE identify opportunities for increased access to high-performance computing services and facilities at the National Labs.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FY 2017 BUDGET				
Appropriation	FY 2016 Enacted (\$)	FY 2017 Request (\$)	Senate FY 2017 Bill (\$)	House FY 2017 Bill (\$)
Department of Energy	29,717,278,000	31,503,903,000	30,741,296,000	29,962,889,000
National Nuclear Security Administration				
Weapons Activities	8,846,948,000	9,234,747,000	9,285,147,000	9,243,147,000
Total NNSA Funding	12,526,512,000	12,884,000,000	12,867,186,000	12,853,570,000
Environmental Management Funding				
Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,289,742,000	5,235,350,000	5,379,018,000	5,226,950,000
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	255,000,000	218,400,000	255,000,000	226,745,000
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund	673,749,000	674,000,000	717,741,000	698,540,000
Total EM Funding	6,218,491,000	6,119,099,000	6,400,000,000	6,152,235,000
Site Funding Highlights				
Carlsbad/WIPP	269,260,000	271,000,000	274,540,000	292,720,000
Hanford/Richland	922,590,000	716,811,000	839,760,000	754,758,000
Idaho National Laboratory	396,000,000	362,088,000	362,088,000	382,088,000
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,366,000	1,396,000	1,396,000	1,396,000
Los Alamos National Laboratory	185,000,000	189,000,000	199,000,000	185,000,000
Oak Ridge Reservation	239,050,000	198,219,000	263,219,000	220,315,000
Office of River Protection	1,414,000,000	1,487,456,000	1,499,965,000	1,487,456,000
Nevada NNSA Site	62,385,000	62,176,000	62,176,000	62,176,000
Paducah	199,925,000	272,310,000	205,530,000	205,530,000
Portsmouth	225,166,000	322,653,000	264,585,000	272,682,000
Sandia National Laboratory	2,500,000	4,130,000	4,130,000	4,130,000
Savannah River Site	1,208,421,000	1,297,453,000	1,268,668,000	1,230,356,000
Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU)	---	3,685,000	3,685,000	3,685,000
West Valley Demonstration Project	61,804,000	61,613,000	66,413,000	61,613,000
Nuclear Energy Funding				
Nuclear Energy	986,161,000	993,896,000	1,057,903,000	1,011,616,000
Nuclear Waste Disposal				
Waste Disposal (Yucca)	---	---	---	150,000,000
Legacy Management Funding				
Legacy Management	167,180,000	154,320,000	154,320,000	154,320,000



DOE'S PUBLIC MEETINGS ON CONSENT-BASED SITING CONTINUE; COMMENTS DUE JULY 31ST

DOE has now completed six of the eight public meetings it is hosting around the country to solicit input from all interested stakeholders on the development of a consent-based process. ECA continues to participate in these meetings and work closely with officials in DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy to ensure the concerns and priorities of local governments and communities are understood; to help DOE understand the kind of information and financial resources potential hosts need; and to highlight the Department's responsibility for managing the legacy defense waste along with the commercial spent nuclear fuel.

Many of the challenges identified by ECA members since DOE announced its effort to design a consent-based siting process are being echoed at these meetings. Some key questions that have been raised at multiple meetings include:

- Who will provide consent and how will "consent" be determined?
- What are the plans for transporting waste? Will consent be needed in determining routes?

- What is needed to ensure there is trust between a host state, host community and the federal government?
- What are the benefits for a host community or state?
- Is there a need for an interim storage site or is it safer to leave the waste where it is until a permanent geologic repository is available?
- What resources are available for potential host communities for education and evaluation and when will they be available?
- Who should have regulatory authority outside of the federal government?

Two meetings remain – the public meeting in Boise, Idaho, on July 14, 2016, which ECA's Director of Nuclear Energy Programs, Kara Colton, will attend in person; and the final meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 21st. Both meetings will be webcast and begin at 5:00 pm local time. Anyone participating remotely is able to submit questions during the discussions.

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DOE will be accepting comments on how it is developing a consent-based siting process through July 31st.

DOE's Request for Public Comment in the Federal Register:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/12/23/2015-32346/invitation-for-public-comment-to-inform-the-design-of-a-consent-based-siting-process-for-nuclear>

How to submit comments: Input can be submitted through a number of channels:

- Email at consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov (please include "Response to IPC" in the subject line).
- Mail: U.S. Department of Energy
- Office of Nuclear Energy,
- Response to IPC, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20585
- Fax: 202-586-0544. Please include "Response to IPC" on the fax cover page.
- Online: Responses will be accepted online at www.regulations.gov.

DOE's Integrated Waste Management and Consent-Based Siting Booklet: <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/04/f30/Consent-Based%20Siting%20Booklet.pdf>

Video and meeting materials from past events: <http://www.energy.gov/ne/activities-and-events>



DOE RECOGNIZES TWO EM SITES WITH AWARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Teams at two EM sites have been recognized with 2016 Energy Sustainability Awards for spearheading projects that have saved taxpayer dollars while promoting efficiency and smart use of DOE resources.

The DOE Sustainability Performance Office highlighted efforts at the Oak Ridge and Savannah River sites as outstanding contributions to the Department's goal of improving environmental, energy, and economic performance while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

At Savannah River, a partnership between the site and the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) has provided an opportunity for thousands of pieces of no-longer-needed equipment and other excess government-owned items to be made available for beneficial use to local governments, nonprofits, and private businesses.

“To give you an idea of the range of items that have been donated and put to good use over the years, we’re talking about piping, a waste debris pelletizer, electronics, furniture, copper wire, motor generators, air conditioners and even an air boat and locomotive engine,” said Parodio Maith, DOE-Savannah River (DOE-SR) community assistance manager. “If items are not needed somewhere within the DOE complex or at another U.S. government agency, these excess items are made available to the SRSCRO.”

Items not selected are sold for profit that may be used to promote local business development and the DOE mission. In 2014, SRSCRO disbursed about \$1 million for infrastructure improvement projects in its region.

In 2015, DOE-SR and the site's management and operations contractor Savannah River Nuclear Solutions initiated an agreement with SRSCRO on new “assets for services” projects to remove difficult-to-manage excess and surplus items.

Through the program, SRSCRO disassembled 12 large transformers and four oil-filled circuit breakers from a now-closed power plant within the site's D Area for recovery of 678,000 pounds of copper and other metals and 56,921 gallons of transformer oil. SRSCRO also is removing 38 excess office trailers and 653 excess refrigerant units including ice-makers, heating and ventilating components, refrigerators and water coolers, and fire retardant held in 31 cylinders.

Savannah River personnel singled out for recognition were Maith, John Harley, Andrew Albenesius, and Rick McLeod.

URS | CH2M Oak Ridge, LLC (UCOR), the prime contractor for Oak Ridge's EM program, helped the small business subcontractor Restoration Services Inc. team with community partners to build a 1 megawatt utility scale photovoltaic power generating project called Powerhouse Six that became operational in April 2015.

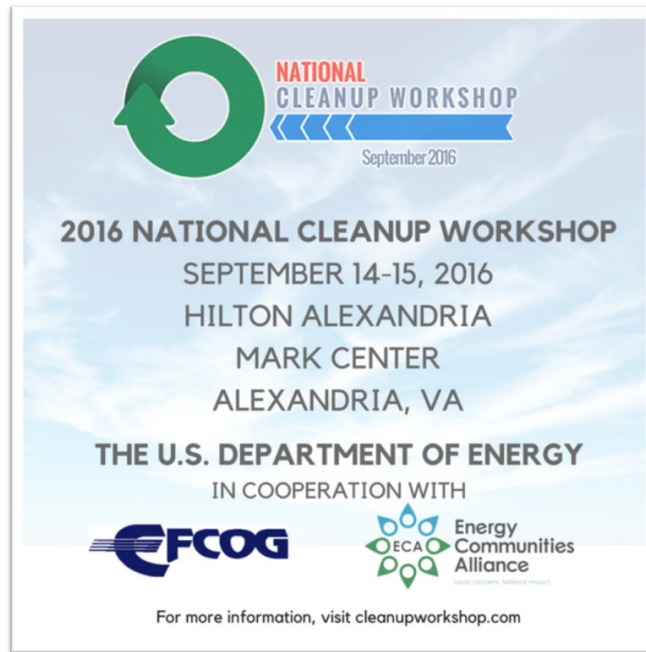
It's the third, and largest, solar array at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), where the last of five gaseous diffusion buildings is being demolished. Under EM's reindustrialization program, property at ETTP is being transferred to the private sector to make the site an industrial park.

The solar plant generates enough clean energy to power more than 100 homes while preventing pollution that is the equivalent to removing 240 cars from the road annually.

Powerhouse Six was developed through a partnership between RSI and solar firm Vis Solis, Inc., and community partners, the City of Oak Ridge, and the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee.

Oak Ridge personnel earning recognition were Caroline Barber, Gil Hough, Betsy Child, Cathy Hickey, Gill Sallade, John Seale, and Perry Spurling.

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HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD URGES CONTRACTORS TO GIVE BACK

According to the [Tri-City Herald](#), the Hanford Advisory Board is urging DOE to hold contractors accountable to help the communities they join. This comes as three large Hanford contracts are set to expire in the next few years.

The board's advice was driven by a desire to get the best value for taxpayers, improve worker safety, reduce the stress on workers of contract changes, nurture small business, and support the community, said board member Mike Korenko, according to the news article. In the past, DOE's bid packages asked contractors to plan how they would help communities but these support plans fell out of favor because they reduced funds available for

cleanup. This ignores the state and local costs associated with contractors, however, including education, infrastructure, and quality of life concerns. Contractors are not investing enough in the communities.

The board suggested that offering a credit of just 3 to 5 percent for community commitment in the bid evaluation could help communities. The Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board also proposes investment within communities and encourages contractors to "become good stewards by investing resources back into the communities that serve them."

SALT WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY COMPLETED

Construction of a facility to process 90 percent of the radioactive liquid waste stored at the Savannah River Site (SRS) has been completed, though it is not projected to begin operations until 2018. That is because it will take about two years of classroom and on-the-job training for operators to become fully qualified to manage the facilities. Further, DOE announced that six metric tons of radioactive material from Japan arrived at SRS this month. The Japanese plutonium is scheduled to be diluted, packed, shipped, and stored in New Mexico by the NNSA.

The now-complete Salt Waste Processing Facility, which had been under construction since 2012, will handle liquid waste rather than the enriched plutonium. It will increase the processing of 36 million gallons of high-level waste stored in tanks on the site left over from the manufacturing of nuclear weapons that ended more than three decades ago.

The contractor started construction work in 2012 and finished in April. DOE then spent the next 30 days inspecting the facility. Its completion is eight months ahead of estimates and \$60 million less than originally projected.



SRS employees and contractors gather to celebrate SWPF contractor Parsons' Star status, the highest recognition in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). DOE launched VPP in 1994 to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health protection. The program outlines areas DOE contractors and subcontractors can exceed compliance with DOE orders and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. It relies on cooperation between managers, employees, and DOE to continuously improve health and safety programs.

CONTRACTS

Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup

The [DRAFT request for proposal](#) for the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract was released this month by DOE. It was released for public comment which will help shape the final request.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) has completed the acquisition planning phase for the upcoming new procurement for legacy cleanup projects at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), hereafter referred to as "Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract." Since its inception in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project, LANL's primary mission has

been nuclear weapons research and development. The LANL EM Program mission is to safely secure and to achieve cleanup and risk reduction of legacy material, facilities, and waste sites at LANL in support of DOE's Strategic Plan to safely complete the environmental remediation of legacy and active sites while protecting human health and the environment. Since October 1, 1988, the programs that characterize and remediate contaminants in the environment, decontaminate and decommission (D&D) process-contaminated facilities, and manage and dispose of legacy transuranic (TRU) waste have been funded by DOE EM.

Upcoming Contract Expirations	
2016 • DUF6 Conversion Operations (Jan. 2016) • Oak Ridge ETTP (July 2016; can be extended for four years) • Nevada National Security Site (Sept 2016) • Moab (Sept. 2016) • SRS (Sept. 2016; can be extended 22 months) • Portsmouth (March 2016; can be extended for five years) • Hanford waste tanks (Sept. 2016; two-year extension possible)	2017 • SRS waste tanks (June 2017) • Paducah (July 2017) • WIPP M&O (Sept. 2017; five-year extension possible) • Los Alamos National Laboratory (Sept. 2017; more award terms possible) • Sandia National Laboratories (April 2017) 2018 and Beyond • Hanford Central Plateau (Sept. 2018) • Lawrence Livermore (Sept. 2018; more award terms possible) • West Valley (April 2019) • Y-12/Pantex (June 2019; up to five more years possible) • Hanford Mission Support (Sept. 2019) • Salt Waste Processing Facility

Note: the Los Alamos National Laboratory contract will be rebid in 2018, the contractor that manages the lab was awarded a one year extension.

SOUTH CAROLINA DENOUNCES WASTE SHIPMENTS

The announcement that shipments of plutonium from Japan have made it to the Savannah River Site was denounced by South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley according to [The Post & Courier](#). Governor Haley has been trying to prevent additional plutonium shipments into South Carolina amid an ongoing battle with the Administration over the future of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility.

“We will not back down: South Carolina will not be a permanent dumping ground for nuclear waste,” Haley said in an email to *The Post and Courier*.

The plutonium will be diluted and stored at SRS until it can be eventually shipped to New Mexico. It will be processed over the next five years at SRS and shipments to New Mexico will begin after the

processing is complete. Another seven tons of surplus plutonium still resides at SRS but the federal government said in April that it has not identified a “preferred alternative” to dispose of the material.

The Federal Government has plans to remove an additional 1,431 kilograms of plutonium and uranium from foreign countries by 2022. South Carolina, by way of SRS, is expected to see most, if not all, of the material at some point.

None of the foreign plutonium is part of the South Carolina’s MOX program, another plutonium program that is designed to meet an agreement with Russia by converting, at SRS, 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear fuel.

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS

Repair Backlog at the Pantex Plant

NNSA’s Pantex Plant mission involves the manufacture of specialty explosives, fabrication, and testing of high explosive components, pit requalification and surveillance, and other activities. Pantex maintains 608 facilities, including 53 mission-critical facilities. According to a [report](#) released on June 23, reduced maintenance budgets have created a large backlog of repairs needed to sustain the facilities and infrastructure. That backlog, though catalogued by Pantex, has not been reported to NNSA management in accordance with the proper regulations and the Inspector General concluded that “In the absence of complete backlog information, NNSA management does not have a true indicator of the site infrastructure’s overall condition.”

DOE’s Small Modular Reactor Licensing Technical Support Program

Commercializing and deploying small modular reactors (SMR) has been a high priority of the Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy SMR Licensing Technical Support Program (SMR Program). The mission of the SMR Program is to support design certification and licensing with industry partners to promote commercializing and deploying SMRs. The SMR Program, which began in 2011, has a budget of \$452 million from which the Department awarded two major cost-shared cooperative agreements (awards). The primary purpose of these awards was to achieve design certification by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The full report can be read [here](#).

\$4B PROJECTED FOR CLEANUP AT LANL



NMED Secretary
Ryan Flynn

Cleanup of legacy waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is expected to cost upwards of \$4 billion according to officials at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), more than double what was originally estimated.

The news comes after the state released a new consent order in March, which outlines cleanup milestones over the next 10 years. NMED Secretary Ryan Flynn described the new consent order as flexible and is optimistic the agreement will accelerate cleanup at the lab. Secretary Flynn recently signed the consent order, between the State of New Mexico Environment Department and EM, making the agreement official.

Secretary Flynn was recently quoted in a press release saying, “The new Consent Order will

accelerate the pace of environmental restoration activities in and around Los Alamos. While the previous version of the Consent Order allowed valuable investigative work to be accomplished, the revised Consent Order will now prioritize cleanup activities.”

Nuclear watchdog groups in the area disagree with Flynn and believe the consent order should spell out milestones, arguing that non-binding agreements will only keep the Department of Energy from being held accountable.

The December 2015 deadline was missed by cleanup contractors at the lab as a result of a radiological release at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Following the incident, the consortium that oversees the contract for the lab received a negative review, which led to an announcement for a rebid of the contract in 2018.

\$3B EXPECTED FOR CLEANUP AT OAK RIDGE

According to a newly released DOE report, mercury contamination cleanup at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant could cost between \$1 to 3 billion.

The report was completed in February 2016 but only recently released publically, according to a story published by the [Knoxville News Sentinel](#).

In addition to outlining the technology plans for mercury cleanup at Y-12, the report also addresses DOE's Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

Between 1950 to 1963, nearly 11 million kilograms of mercury were used at Y-12. The report estimates 3 percent of this total was released into the environment, with mercury seeping into soils and leaking into local waterways. Pockets of mercury are also found in the structures of buildings at the site.



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Wrap-Up: ECA Peer Exchange on Environmental Management Issues

siting initiative and prospects for high-level waste disposition.

ECA Chair and Aiken County Councilman Chuck Smith opened the meeting by acknowledging some of the issues that communities are still looking to reconcile with DOE, including waste dispositions and reclassification. Chair Smith also recognized specific challenges that other communities are currently facing, such as missed cleanup milestones across the complex and delays for projects like the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP).

Update on Resuming Operations at WIPP

Frank Marcinowski discussed on resuming operations at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), which is expected to reopen by December 2016. Marcinowski reiterated the Secretary's interest in seeing operations resume, mentioning his involvement in weekly briefings at headquarters.

Contracting and Acquisition Reform

Following Marcinowski's presentation, Norbert Doyle, Director of the Office of Procurement Planning at DOE-EM, and Jim Owendoff, Senior Advisor at EM, discussed upcoming contract awards. Mayor Steve Young, who leads ECA's subcommittee on contracting reform, took the opportunity to ask if DOE had a formal update on recommendations that were provided during a two-part meeting between EM and ECA in February.

ECA members also discussed communication issues various sites have experienced with EM, specifically with regards to advance notice and explanation of draft contract requests for proposals that impact communities. ECA agreed to coordinate with DOE on organizing community members to engage with EM on scheduling community and industry days, an effort that has yielded positive results thus far. Los Alamos will be one of the first communities to coordinate with EM for an industry day.



Cleanup Budget & Excess Facilities

Mark Gilberston, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration, focused on issues concerning workforce development and excess facilities, another important topic several ECA member communities are also concerned about. Gilbertson acknowledged the implications of an aging workforce on DOE host communities.

"Currently, the average age of workforce is over 50...The lifecycle of \$240 billion in cleanup... There are 11,000 facilities that are excess within

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Wrap-Up: ECA Peer Exchange on Environmental Management Issues

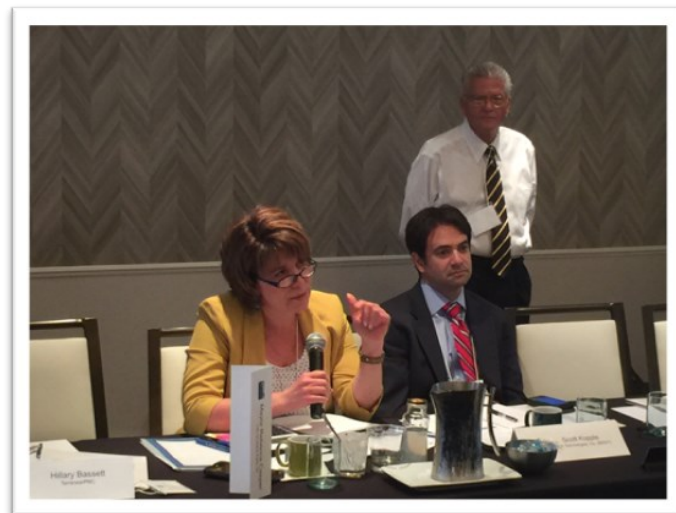
OMB's purview. On average, those buildings are 39 years old. We need to educate and inform people of the issue. There are 2,300 excess facilities within the DOE complex and that number is sure to rise by 1,000 soon," Gilbertson said.

Gilbertson acknowledged that addressing excess facilities is especially important for communities surrounding Oak Ridge, making specific reference to the K-25 building. Gilbertson noted that DOE has been submitting congressional reports on the nature of the issue. Participants at the meeting asked if DOE is considering a third party funding source to manage aging excess facilities. Gilbertson said that lease backs are an answer to tackling the issue. However, he also acknowledged that communities seeking lease backs for aging or excess facilities would need to work within OMB's legal framework, which might cause other issues in the long run. According to Gilbertson, another option for communities is to consider a 770 land transfer.

Gilbertson also took the time to encourage participants and ECA members to think about the effects of the 2016 election. The presidential transition, along with EM's reorganization announcement, are two issues that ECA will continue to keep members up to date on, with a formal update on the 2016 election results to be presented at the November intergovernmental meeting in New Orleans.

FY17 Budget Update

Representative Mike Simpson, Chairman of the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee, provided an update on the stalemate Congress faced in passing a budget resolution. Congressman Simpson spoke candidly about some of the fiscal challenges Congress, agencies, and communities will face in the coming months. Simpson told members that he will support the E&W appropriations bill that comes out of conference.



ECA Chair Chuck Smith asked about community commitment clauses as they relate to contracting reform. Rep. Simpson took note, and encouraged communities and ECA to contact his staff on the issue.

FY17 Appropriations and Implications for DOE Cleanup

CH2M Vice President Colin Jones, SRSCRO Executive Director Rick McLeod, and AECOM Senior Projects Director Eric Knox discussed the importance of maintaining a stable budget, emphasizing that the real budget for cleanup should be closer to \$8 billion for EM. All three agreed that each community must communicate with their Congressional delegation on ensuring that cleanup

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Wrap-Up: ECA Peer Exchange on Environmental Management Issues

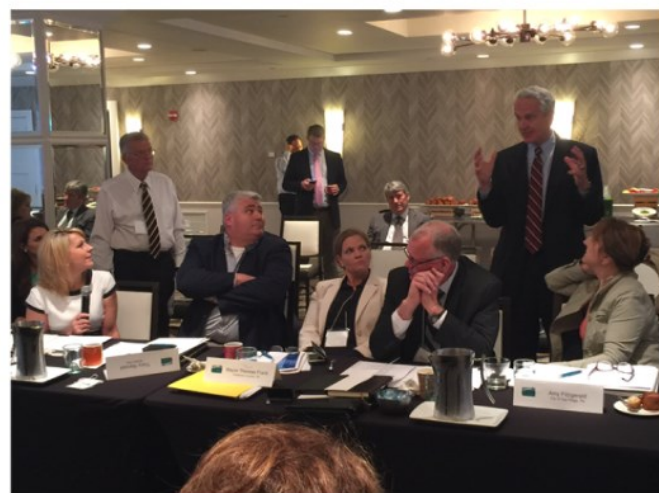
dollars are secured in each year's budget. Recommendations from panelists also included tracking and keeping up with politics locally and nationally. "Make sure to begin tracking and educating local elected officials and soon-to-be-elected officials on the issues that matter most to your communities," added Knox.

Keeping Promises with States

Local government officials discussed their role in negotiating State, EPA, and DOE consent, and other cleanup agreements. Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper explained some of the ways political tensions have affected outcomes for cleanup and research at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Bart Barnhart, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget provided an update on EM's FY17 Budget. One important discussion that members have continued to inquire about has been the status of payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) payments to several communities within the DOE complex. Following Mr. Barnhart's presentation, ECA scheduled a meeting with EM, emphasizing the need for PILT and to find out when payments will be made.

Billy Morrison, Chairman of the Energy Facilities Contractor Group and Vice President of Atkins (formally known as EnergySolutions), provided an industry perspective on issues affecting the complex. Morrison noted that the biggest issue affecting EM in the coming years will be the cleanup and management of various tank farms, particularly at Hanford. Martin Schneider, Group Vice President for Environmental Management Programs at Longenecker and Associates, agreed and provided additional insight into the future of the environmental management business, including the final contracts for cleanup that are soon to be awarded and completed. According to Schneider, projects such as those at INL will free up cleanup dollars, allowing EM to focus on managing liquid waste at the remaining cleanup sites.



Deputy Under Secretary David Klaus gave his insight into goals that DOE hopes to meet in the remaining months of the administration, such as increasing EM's budget to include a more robust technology budget, and resolving disputes between DOE and states.

Klaus discussed the importance of setting achievable cleanup milestones, stating that at this point in the cleanup program, EM knows what work is left to be done. "The real challenge is at the field level," said Klaus, emphasizing that the reorganization will help EM focus on field work.

Waste Disposal & Consent-Based Siting

Mary Louise Wagner spoke to members on consent-based siting and high-level waste issues. Wagner

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Wrap-Up: ECA Peer Exchange on Environmental Management Issues

acknowledged that NE has faced some challenges throughout the process, including funding and appropriations, feelings of mistrust and opposition in Congress on waste disposal.

For more information, or to view the agenda from ECA's Peer Exchange on Environmental Management, visit www.energyca.org.



HOUSE NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS MEETS ON CAPITOL HILL



Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, discusses the nuclear cleanup mission with panelists Mark Whitney, Christine Gelles, and Ingrid Kolb

The House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus continued with its three part series with NEI and EFCOG on examining issues within the DOE complex. Senior EM officials, including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney joined stakeholders, industry executives, and congressional staff at the event. Panelists also included Parsons Senior Vice President and Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) Project Manager Frank Sheppard and Bechtel National Inc. Waste Treatment Plant (WTP)

Project Director Peggy McCullough. The panel was moderated by Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) Board of Directors Chair Billy Morrison. The questions that followed primarily focused on issues related to the startup and commissioning of key EM facilities.

Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Chairman of the Caucus, kicked off the event, noting the increased turnout from previous events.

Mark Whitney outlined some of the major site projects that have topped EM's priority list, including the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF), resuming operations at WIPP, and EM's approach to finding a solution for the nation's high-level waste, a mission that Whitney says is extremely important given the high environmental risk. Whitney also brought up the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) noting the completion of all priorities as crucial to the success of EM's program.

"Resuming operations at WIPP is something we all rely on," said Whitney when asked about the status of WIPP's reopening. Whitney continued by saying that WIPP's reopening will help EM's credibility and pointed out that the work that has been done so far is a source of pride at EM.

(Continued from page 16)

House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus Meets on Capitol Hill

Representative Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) also provided remarks to attendees, expressing his support for EM's cleanup efforts. Rep. Wenstrup discussed the importance that the cleanup labor force has on local economies in areas like Pike County.

Morrison asked Frank Sheppard about the lessons learned and progress made with the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). Sheppard answered, emphasizing that Parsons has done a great job at prioritizing safety, staying ahead of schedule and below budget, expecting SWPF to be fully operational by 2018. Sheppard noted that SWPF has entered the testing and commissioning phase after finishing construction eight months ahead of schedule and more than \$60 million under budget based on the company's contract arrangement from June 2013.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) Project Director Peggy McCullough discussed operations and lessons learned regarding Hanford's tank farms. In addition to making glass as soon as 2022 and reducing risks at the tank farms, the Direct-Feed

Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) initiative is said to reduce operational risks and add a higher degree of confidence to the tank waste treatment process at the site.

The final question of the evening went to Mark Whitney on the next steps on resuming operations at WIPP. Whitney outlined the work that has already been accomplished at the site, including stability of the mine, eliminating the risk that came from the faulty drum, and the completion and implementation of new safety management programs.

Whitney confirmed that cold operations at the site have commenced using new safety procedures. He added that workers will be conducting drills in abnormal conditions, adding that cold operations will intensify in the coming months.

The third event for the caucus is scheduled for Sept. 14.

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GAO REPORTS

Nuclear Security: Status of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Effort to Develop a Security Infrastructure Plan

In a recent report, GAO found that NNSA has not completed a required Security Infrastructure Plan but plans to complete one in the near future. NNSA recently began including information on potential physical security infrastructure improvements in its FY17 budget and planning documents.

For example, the NNSA fiscal year 2017 budget request for Defense Nuclear Security states that it

may need more than \$2 billion dollars over the next 15 years to address repairs and replacement of essential security infrastructure at enterprise sites. According officials, in FY 2018 NNSA will begin to add more detailed and accurate estimates to its annual budget request and other long-range planning documents. Furthermore, the FY 2019 budget request and long-range planning documents will include full details and costs of NNSA's Security Infrastructure Plan. Find a full copy of the report [here](#).

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UNDERGOES REORGANIZATION

The Office of Environmental Management recently announced its plans for reorganization. The Administration has experienced some difficulties over the past years, with high-profile leaks of radioactive waste, contractor issues, missed deadlines and increasing cleanup costs.

DOE's reorganization effort is said to be a re-focus of priorities – most notably field operations, including regulatory and policy affairs, and business operations. Assistant Secretary Dr. Monica Regalbuto hopes to increase information-sharing and communication among EM-HQ and field offices around the 90 cleanup sites within the complex.

According to DOE officials, the proposal will not affect employee pay or status. However, the reorganization may create new roles for employees. Plans for reorganization were submitted to the National Treasury Employees Union which is currently reviewing the proposal under a collective bargaining agreement.

EM will be separated into three offices, led by Stacy Charboneu, currently Manager of the Richland Operations Office, Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, and Candice Trummel, Senior Advisor within the Secretary's office. During ECA's recent Peer Exchange on Environmental Management Issues,

Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance David Klaus said that increasing EM's budget to include a technology development office is a high priority on Assistant Secretary Regalbuto's list in streamlining cleanup efforts within the EM complex.

Efforts for reorganization come on the heels of multiple events that have led EM to reconsider how it operates. A recent report found that the incident could have been prevented with proper oversight of operations.

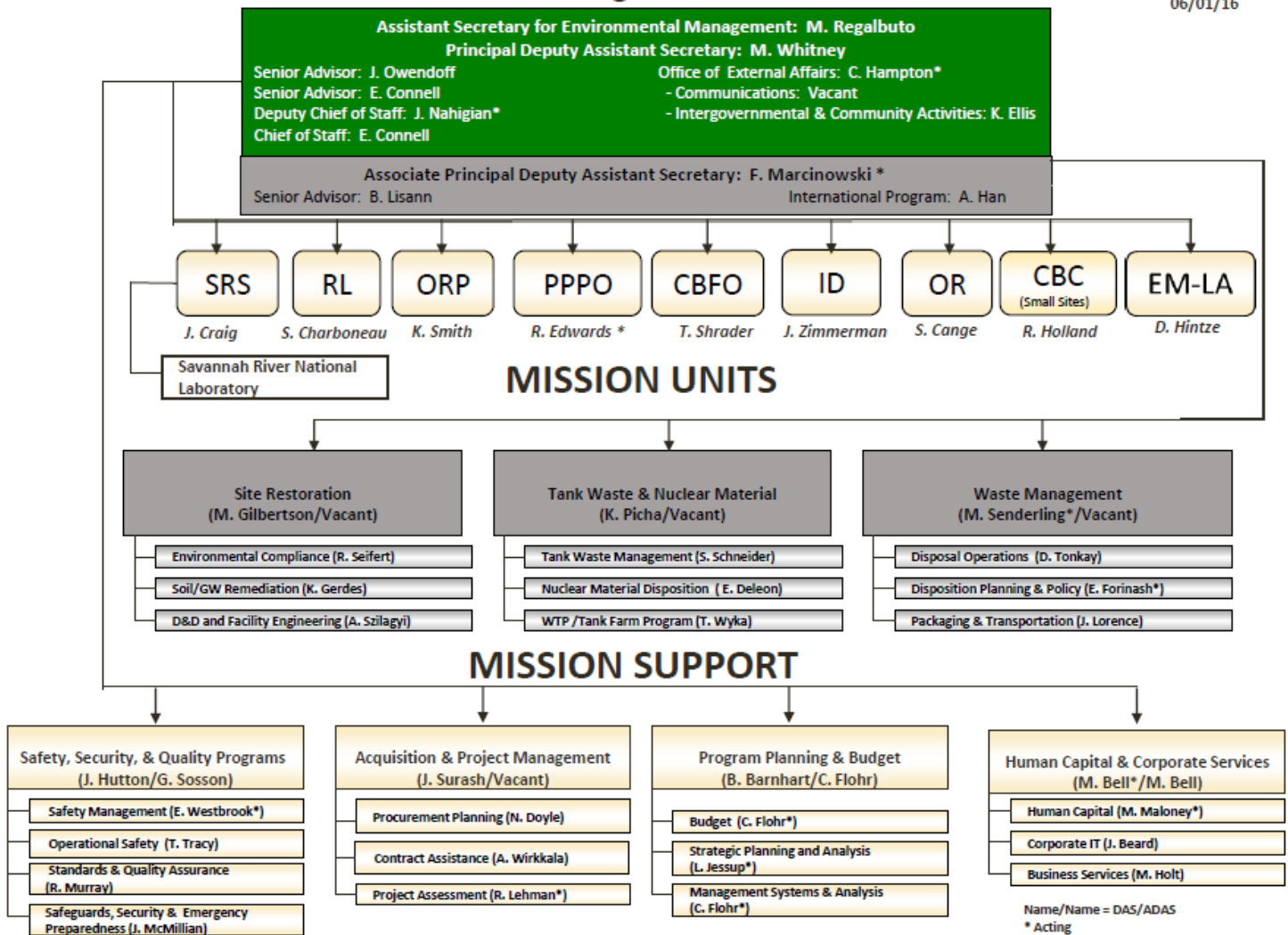
Regalbuto is hopeful that the reorganization will address concerns by eliminating duplicate positions within the office. Ralph Holland, director of EM's Consolidated Business Center in Cincinnati, for example, would also oversee acquisitions and project management under the proposed reconfiguration, according to DOE.

Another driver for reorganization included the release of a congressionally mandated report in February highlighting differences between DOE and its labs, creating a source for tension.

In addition to internal strife, EM has continues to face challenges in addressing missed cleanup milestones in states like New Mexico. State Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn offered and negotiated a new cleanup agreement with DOE in an effort to address delays and increased costs.

EM Organization

06/01/16



Bulletin Ideas?

Would you like to have stories featured in the next Bulletin?
 Send your ideas and photos to Devon@energyca.org

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK NOW ACCEPTING PRIVATE DONATIONS

Private donations can now be accepted to fund the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Benton-Franklin River Heritage Foundation, administered by Visit Tri-Cities near Hanford, WA, is among the first to take donations for the park until an official “Friends of the Park” group is established.

Kris Watkins, Visit Tri-Cities’ President and CEO, said 100 percent of any contribution made will go toward funding the new park because no administration fees are being charged.

Watkins said the “friends group” will be created after a permanent superintendent is named for the

park. In the interim, the foundation is expected to assist in establishing funding for the park.

NPS officials estimate the Park will attract over 100,000 tourists annually.

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park will tell the story of innovation, the sacrifice and work that went into making the bomb, the decision to use the bomb, and the consequences thereafter.

Those who are interested in making a tax-deductible donation for the historical park can mail or deliver it to Visit Tri-Cities, Attn: Hanford Unit Fund, 7130 Grandridge Blvd., Suite B, Kennewick, WA 99336.

RADIOACTIVITY AT OAK RIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT REDUCED

Contractors overseeing the cleanup of a sewage plant in Oak Ridge, TN, say that radioactivity at the site has decreased by 90%. The drop in radioactivity levels is a result of the removal of 90,000 gallons of waste and sludge at the Rarity Ridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

URS-CH2M, the cleanup contractor, completed its 18th shipment of radioactive sludge to a treatment facility in Washington state.

Demolition at the former K-25 Uranium enrichment facility led to contamination of the sewage plant. No workers are said to be at risk at the treatment plant.



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

FEDS EXPECTED TO MISS CLEANUP DEADLINE AT INL

Federal officials are expected to miss a September cleanup deadline that would have begun converting 900,000 gallons of high-level radioactive liquid waste to a solid form at the Idaho National Laboratory in eastern Idaho.

Jack Zimmerman, Idaho Cleanup Project Deputy Manager, recently told reporters that although the waste has been transformed into a solid state, consistency in the operation has created challenges.

A 1995 agreement with Idaho set an initial 2012 deadline for DOE, but that deadline has been previously extended on multiple occasions. The newest missed deadline means the DOE faces potential fines from Idaho up to \$6,000 a day.

The missed deadline is also a setback to DOE's plans to bring in research shipments of spent commercial nuclear fuel to the lab. One shipment has already been canceled due to delays, which means the loss of millions of dollars a year to the region.



TARCZA NAMED MANAGER OF DOE'S OAK RIDGE OFFICE



Kenneth R. Tarcza

Former Chief of Staff for Army Research and Development, Kenneth R. Tarcza, will manage DOE's Oak Ridge office, according to a recent announcement by DOE's Office of Science.

Tarcza will be charged with overseeing the Integrated Support Center, coordinating activities between DOE's office of Environmental Management, Office of Science, and NNSA. The center is responsible for coordinating and providing services for various labs at Office of Science sites.



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2016 Congressional Calendar



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

July

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18 [REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION]	19	20	21	22
25 [DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION]	26	27	28	29

August

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

September

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

October

M	T	W	T	F
3	4 Rosh Hashanah ends	5	6	7
10 Columbus Day	11 Yom Kippur begins	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

November

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25
28	29	30		

December

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

Hanukkah begins
Dec. 24

Credit CQ Roll Call: <http://cdn.rollcall.com/pdfs/Congressional-Calendar-2016.pdf>



2016 Upcoming Events

July 14	NE consent based siting regional meeting in Boise, Idaho. For more information, see here .
July 18 – September 6	Congress begins six week summer recess.
July 21	NE consent based siting regional meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information see here .
August 9-10	Third Annual Intermountain Energy Summit in Idaho Falls, ID, for more information, click here
August 18-19	ECA - Implementing the Manhattan Project National Historical Park meeting (at capacity).
September 6	Congress returns from recess.
September 13 (starts at 12:00pm)	ECA Nuclear Energy Peer Exchange, for more information contact kara@energyca.org
September 14	House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus workshop, for more information contact Christina Barworosky at cmb@nei.org
September 14-15	DOE National Cleanup Workshop co-hosted by ECA and EFCOG For more information, please see page 8
September 30	Congress recesses for elections
October 1	Start of FY 2017
November 16-18	2016 Intergovernmental Meeting in New Orleans, LA.
November 8	Election Day
November 14	Congress returns for lame duck session.

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Bulletin

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