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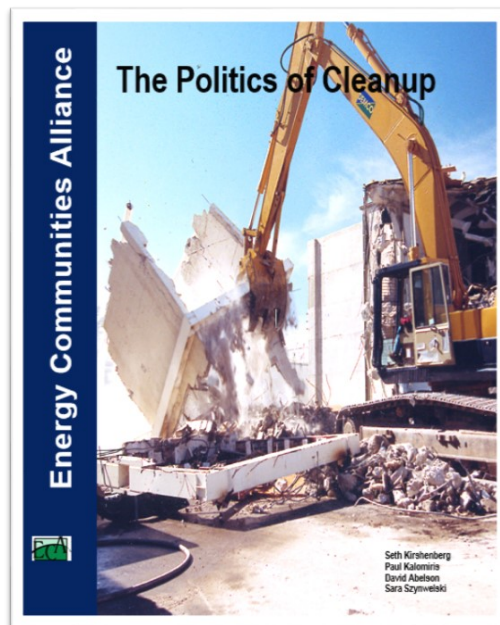
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## LESSONS LEARNED FROM DOE CLEANUPS

DOE's Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) is once again reviewing the experiences at sites such as Rocky Flats as a case study to better understand what factors are necessary for the successful cleanup and closure of all EM sites.

Perhaps one of the most important lessons learned from the closure of Rocky Flats was that cleanup is not simply a technical activity, but a political one as well. Interaction between federal, state, and local parties plays a significant role in the positive outcome of environmental cleanup projects at federal facilities.

In a Senate [report](#) accompanying the FY2005 National Defense Authorization Act, lawmakers identified the need for sharing lessons learned regarding accelerated environmental cleanups at DOE nuclear weapons sites in an effort to reduce the health and safety risks DOE faces at other nuclear weapons facilities it would soon begin remediating.



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## ECA SUBMITS COMMENTS TO DOE ON STREAMLINING OPERATIONS AND REGULATIONS

This month, ECA submitted [comments](#) to DOE in response to a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) published on May 30 calling for public input on what agency regulations, requirements, or other regulatory obligations can be modified or repealed to achieve meaningful burden reduction.

In the spirit of streamlining DOE regulations, processes, and practices, ECA comments provided the following set of recommendations that, if enacted,

“will increase environmental cleanup efficiency, support national and energy security efforts, and reduce unnecessary burdens to local governments and other DOE stakeholders.” ECA's seven recommendations are:

1. **Involve local governments early in DOE decision- and budget-making processes—** Maintaining partnerships and undertaking meaningful

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Senior DOE officials, industry executives and community representatives from across the U.S. are set to participate in the 2017 National Cleanup Workshop. Planned participants include:

- **Barton Barnhart**, EM Infrastructure Management and Disposition Policy Director
- **Bill Johnson**, President, Mission Support Alliance
- **Billy Morrison**, Chair, Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG)
- **Bruce Covert**, President, Nuclear Waste Partnership
- **Carmelo Melendez**, Director, DOE Office of Legacy Management
- **Cathy Hickey**, President, Westinghouse Government Services
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- **Doug Shoop**, Manager, EM Richland Operations Office
- **Edward McGinnis**, Acting Assistant Energy Secretary for Nuclear Energy
- **Greg Meyer**, Senior Vice President, Fluor
- **Jack Craig**, Manager, EM Savannah River Operations Office
- **Jack Zimmerman**, Deputy Manager, DOE Idaho Operations Office
- **James Taylor**, Principal Vice President, Bechtel
- **Jay Mullis**, Deputy Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management
- **Jim Owendoff**, Acting Assistant Energy Secretary for EM
- **Karthik Subramanian**, AECOM N&E Chief Technology Officer
- **Kevin Smith**, Manager, EM Office of River Protection
- **Ralph Holland**, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management
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- **County Executive Ron Woody**, Roane County, Tennessee; ECA Secretary
- **Shelly Wilson**, Federal Facilities Liaison, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- **Stacy Charboneau**, EM Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations
- **Stuart MacVean**, President, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
- **Dr. Terry Michalske**, Director, Savannah River National Laboratory
- **Todd Shrader**, Manager, EM Carlsbad Field Office
- **Todd Wright**, General Manager, AECOM
- **Ty Blackford**, President, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co.

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# Legislative Update

On July 11, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that the Senate will work through the first two weeks of their August recess as it, alongside the House, faces a packed legislative agenda. The continued stalemate over health care is certainly slowing things down, but the House and Senate Appropriations and Armed Services Committees have been hard at work on their respective bills.

## *House Passes Minibus*

In a 235-192 vote, the House passed the \$789 billion ‘security minibus’—a bundle of four spending bills: Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and Legislative Branch—on July 27.

Upon returning from their August recess, the House will have only 12 working days in September to pass the remaining eight bills before the close of the current fiscal year.

## *Energy and Water Appropriations*

Contained within the House minibus was the \$37.56B FY2018 [energy and water spending bill](#). According to a House Appropriations Committee [press release](#), the bill is “\$209 million below the FY2017 enacted level and \$3.65 billion above the President’s budget request.”

The House bill provides a total of \$14.9 billion for DOE’s nuclear weapons security programs, including Weapons Activities, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Naval Reactors, a \$976 million increase above the FY2017 level. This includes \$340 million in funding for the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

For Environmental Cleanup, the bill includes \$6.4 billion, a \$24.6 million decrease from FY2017 levels. Funding for Defense Environmental Cleanup remains the same as FY2017 levels at \$5.4 billion.

The bill also provides \$154 million for the Office of Legacy Management, which is on par with the President’s budget request and \$286 thousand below FY2017 levels.

The Office of Nuclear Energy is funded at \$969 million, \$48 million below FY2017 levels but \$468 million above the President’s budget request. The bill provides \$120 million to DOE and \$30 million to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to support the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository program and licensing activities.

Renewable energy programs are cut by \$986 million compared to FY2017, a significant reduction, but an increase of \$468 million over the President’s budget request.

During the committee markup of the bill, many lawmakers expressed concern about cuts to DOE research, particularly the defunding of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). Energy and Water Chairman Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) said that while funding for ARPA-E was not included in the appropriations bill, it could return later.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed their \$38.4 billion energy and water spending bill ([S. 1609](#)) on July 20. In total, the Senate bill is \$629 million above FY2017 enacted levels and \$4.1 billion above the President’s budget request. The bill, which passed with limited amendments on a 30-1 vote, now moves to the Senate floor for final approval.

The sole ‘no’ vote came from Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who opposed the bill’s lack of funding for the MOX project in his home state.

The Senate bill provides DOE with \$31.46 billion, \$718 million above FY2017 levels and \$3.6 billion above the President’s budget request.

More specifically, funding for NNSA activities is \$13.7 billion, \$747 million above FY2017 enacted

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levels and \$230 million shy of the President's budget request. The budget for DOE environmental cleanup activities is \$6.6 billion, \$214 million above FY2017 levels and \$100 million above the President's request. The Office of Nuclear Energy would receive \$917 million, approximately \$100 million below FY2017 levels and a \$214 million increase above the President's request.

In contrast to the President's budget request, the bill gives \$330 million to ARPA-E and boosts DOE's Office of Science funding. And unlike the budget request and the House spending bill, the Senate version does not include funding for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project, instead calling for a pilot program for consolidated nuclear waste storage. And providing funding for interim storage at private facilities.

A breakdown of both the House and Senate bill's spending levels by DOE program can be found on page 6.

### *Congress to Revisit PILT Payments*

The House Appropriations Committee released a [report](#) on its energy and water bill on July 11. The report contains language which would require DOE to "undertake a full overhaul" of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. PILT, as defined by the 1954 Atomic Energy Act, are payments made by DOE to cities and counties that host defense nuclear facilities on acquired property previously subject to state and local taxes. Communities in receipt of PILT use it to support vital local government enterprises such as school and hospital districts, roads and other critical infrastructure, and emergency services such as police and fire departments.

The report states that "After reasonable notice has been given in the Federal Register, DOE shall terminate all existing PILT agreements and enter into new PILT agreements that are consistent across all eligible sites and are in compliance with the requirement that payments are not made in excess of the taxes that would have been payable for such

property in the condition in which it was originally acquired. Not later than 360 days after the enactment of this Act, the Department shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report that describes the terms and payment amounts for each new PILT agreement and certifies that the terms of each agreement and calculations for payments are consistent across all eligible sites and with the statutory policy direction."

The committee report further directs the Comptroller General to examine: 1) which communities have received PILT and in what amounts; 2) how payment amounts were determined by DOE; 3) the extent to which agreements differ across sites; 4) the consistency of adjustments made to payments that reduce or increase amounts paid; and 5) whether DOE has made substantive changes to its payment policy or individual agreements since the issue was last examined by the GAO in the 1990s.

Ensuring the continuation of PILT is a priority for ECA members and their communities which will be directly impacted. ECA plans to engage with DOE and highlight the importance of including local governments in meaningful, transparent discussions.

### *National Defense Authorization Act*

On July 14, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2018 ([H.R. 2810](#)). The bill, which sets policy and authorizes funding levels for DOE national security programs in addition to other defense issues, passed by a vote of 344-81. The House NDAA authorizes \$688 billion in defense and defense-related spending. That includes \$20.8 billion for national security programs at DOE and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which is around \$326 million above the President's budget request. These funding levels authorized by the House NDAA exceed Congress's budget caps by \$72 billion.

The Senate's version of the NDAA ([S. 1519](#)) was released on July 11, along with the Senate Armed Services Committee [report](#). The Senate bill authorizes a topline of \$700 billion in national defense spending. That includes \$21 billion in total discretionary funding for DOE national security

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## Legislative Update

programs, which is around \$562 million above the President's budget request.

The House bill authorized \$14.18 billion for NNSA, an increase of \$253.2 million above the budget request, and the Senate bill authorized \$14.49 billion, an increase of \$560 million above the budget request. For defense environmental cleanup, the House bill authorized \$5.6 billion, a \$70 million increase above the budget request, and the Senate bill authorized the budget request of \$5.5 billion. Both bills authorized the requested amount of \$30 million for Yucca Mountain and interim storage.

Noteworthy amendments to the bill that passed the House include: an amendment requiring that NNSA provide Congress with a list of unfunded requirements; an amendment requiring the NNSA Administrator to report on the recommended alternative for the recapitalization of plutonium science and production capabilities; and an amendment requiring the Department of Defense, in coordination with DOE, to conduct a pilot program among defense laboratories, national laboratories, and private entities to facilitate the licensure, transfer, and commercialization of innovative technologies.

For Defense Environmental Cleanup funding, the House bill authorized \$759 million for the Hanford site, an increase of \$43 million over the budget request, while the Senate bill authorized DOE's requested amount of \$716 million for Hanford. The House bill authorized \$1.3 billion for Savannah River Site, a \$27 million increase over the President's request, and the Senate authorized the budget request level of \$1.28 billion. The House and Senate bills both authorized DOE's requested funding levels for Idaho National Laboratory (\$350 million), NNSA sites and Nevada off-sites (\$257 million), Oak Ridge (\$207 million), and WIPP (\$316 million).

Of particular importance to ECA, the House bill includes a section (Sec. 3133) that would "require the Secretary of Energy to conduct an evaluation of the feasibility, costs, and cost savings of classifying, without decreasing safety requirements,

certain defense nuclear waste as other than high-level radioactive waste. The Secretary would be required to submit a report on this evaluation to the appropriate congressional committees by February 1, 2018."

Clarifying the definition of defense high-level waste is a priority for ECA. We are pleased to see this legislative language and will continue to work with DOE to develop an administrative strategy to support any legislative change in the definition or classification of defense nuclear waste.

The Senate committee [report](#) includes language regarding the contracting schedules of DOE and NNSA. The committee highlighted its concerns about the negative impact on competition due to the unpredictability of these schedules for large contracts related to management and operations (M&O), decontamination and decommissioning and remediation. As such, the committee encouraged "both DOE and NNSA to improve the stability and reliability of its schedule for releasing draft requests for proposals, requests for proposals, and awarding contracts."

Both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA authorize funding for the continued construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina. The House bill recommends a \$70 million increase and the Senate bill recommends an \$80 million increase in funding for the project. The White House issued a [statement](#) specifically addressing MOX funding stating, "The Administration strongly objects to section 3119 directing construction of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. [...] The MOX project is unaffordable and risky, with \$12 billion in remaining construction costs."

### ***NRC, DOE Nominations in the Senate***

On July 12, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved Annie Caputo and David Wright to serve as NRC commissioners. Caputo and Wright now move to the Senate floor for consideration. If confirmed, the NRC would have a full slate of five commissioners.

The nomination of Dan Brouillette as DOE Deputy Secretary is still on hold in the Senate. Senator

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## FY 2018 Budget Highlights\*

(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Request	FY2018 House Bill	FY2018 Senate Bill
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY</b>	<b>30,746,009</b>	<b>28,041,597</b>	<b>29,888,401</b>	<b>31,463,626</b>
<b>Environmental Management</b>	<b>6,420,000</b>	<b>6,508,335</b>	<b>6,395,400</b>	<b>6,633,968</b>
Defense Environmental Cleanup	5,405,000	5,537,186	5,405,000	5,579,968
Hanford/ Richland	839,760	716,192	837,553	826,192
Office of River Protection	1,499,965	1,504,311	1,518,311	1,590,000
Idaho National Laboratory	382,088	350,226	382,071	350,226
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,396	1,175	31,175	1,175
Separations Process Research Unit	3,685	1,800	1,800	1,800
Nevada NNSA Sites	62,176	60,136	60,136	60,136
Sandia National Laboratory	4,130	2,600	2,600	2,600
Los Alamos National Laboratory	194,000	191,629	194,000	217,529
Oak Ridge Reservation	263,219	207,600	283,721	275,219
Savannah River Site	1,233,429	1,282,467	1,397,694	1,260,000
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	292,720	316,571	323,041	300,971
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	247,000	218,400	222,400	266,000
West Valley Demonstration Project	66,413	60,585	64,585	75,000
Gaseous Diffusion Plants	101,304	100,575	100,575	101,304
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination & Decommissioning Fund	768,000	752,749	768,000	788,000
Oak Ridge	194,673	145,726	158,018	194,673
Paducah	205,530	202,958	202,958	205,530
Portsmouth	315,168	351,271	351,271	351,271
<b>Legacy Management</b>	<b>154,320</b>	<b>154,606</b>	<b>154,606</b>	<b>154,606</b>
<b>National Nuclear Security Administration</b>	<b>12,938,252</b>	<b>13,931,000</b>	<b>13,914,400</b>	<b>13,685,032</b>
Weapons Activities	9,245,567	10,239,344	10,239,344	10,000,071
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	1,882,872	1,793,310	1,776,461	1,852,310
Naval Reactors	1,419,813	1,479,751	1,486,000	1,436,651
<b>Nuclear Energy</b>	<b>1,016,616</b>	<b>703,000</b>	<b>969,000</b>	<b>917,020</b>
<b>Yucca Mountain and Interim Storage</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>---</b>
Nuclear Waste Disposal	---	90,000	90,000	---
Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal	---	30,000	30,000	---
<b>INDEPENDENT AGENCIES</b>				
<b>Nuclear Regulatory Commission</b>	<b>112,505</b>	<b>138,000</b>	<b>161,612</b>	<b>108,525</b>
Yucca Mountain Licensing	---	30,000	30,000	---

\*Note: These figures are compiled from different sources: the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Appropriations committee reports, and press releases. There are some discrepancies in how each calculates government spending.

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Dean Heller (R-NV) is reportedly responsible for the hold because of Brouillette's support for resuming work on Yucca Mountain. Heller said the hold "is to send a message" about [H.R. 3053](#), the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act that was approved 49-4 by the House Energy and Commerce Committee last month.

On July 11, the White House [announced](#) the nominations of Mark Wesley Menezes as DOE Undersecretary and Paul Dabbar as DOE Undersecretary for Science. This announcement of two separate undersecretary positions indicates the reversal of a change made during the last administration, where the two positions were

merged to pull all research and development and the national labs under one umbrella.

Dabbar is Managing Director for Mergers & Acquisitions for J.P. Morgan and currently serves on DOE's Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB). He received a B.S. degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and an M.B.A. from Columbia University. Menezes is Vice President of Federal Relations for Berkshire Hathaway Energy, and was previously Chief Counsel for the House Majority on the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. He received his undergraduate and juris doctor degrees from Louisiana State University.

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a nomination [hearing](#) for Dabbar and Menezes on July 20; the committee has not yet announced when it will vote on the nominations.



The Regional Economic Development Eastern Idaho (REDI) is currently hiring for the position of Science, Technology, and Research (STAR) Director.

Eastern Idaho is anchored with the largest concentration of higher education opportunities in Idaho, a Department of Energy national laboratory, three additional major science and research labs, and advanced manufacturing. REDI's goal is to maintain, grow, and advocate this core sector for the families, communities, and businesses of Eastern Idaho. This position will serve as a lightning rod for local citizens, government, and businesses around Science Technology and Research (STAR) initiatives in Eastern Idaho. From monitoring the STAR landscape, presenting technical information in laymen's terms, navigating federal programs, and developing grassroots support, the Director will work to advocate and strengthen STAR drivers that benefit Eastern Idaho.

This individual reports directly to the CEO of REDI and serves as the spokesperson and champion for topics and actions tied to (STAR) industry opportunities within the region. The Director is the lead advocate for members of REDI, elected officials, and other businesses for interactions with both government and industry

To apply, please visit [HERE](#).

## NEW ACTING EM ASSISTANT SECRETARY JIM OWENDOFF LAYS OUT HIS VISION

**EM Update** recently published an Q&A with the new Acting EM Assistant Secretary Jim Owendoff on his vision and priorities for the EM program.

**You've had a lengthy career in the EM program. Based on your experience, where do you feel the program is today?**

*There are several areas where we have made great progress. We have a strong workforce—from the union standpoint, the contractor standpoint and the federal standpoint. I think there continues to be an interest in getting things done. I think when people wake up in the morning, they certainly want to be able to work in a safe environment and also be able, at the end of the day, to feel good about the accomplishments they have made.*

*I think we have a number of decisions that are teed up, and that's one of the reasons for the 45-day review now underway. What I am looking at is how we can be more timely in our decision-making. That's very important to me. (Read more about this effort in a separate story in this newsletter issue.)*

*I believe that just by inherently making timely decisions, that in and of itself it reduces costs because you get on with implementing a particular decision. Certainly, I am always interested in reducing cost and reducing schedule. We go through that on our contracting approach where we accomplish our work via competitive contracts and then we look to have mechanisms with those contracts to have continuous competition in the subcontracting area to have cost-effective work done.*

*So that's where I believe we are today.*

**Along with the 45-day review, what are some of your other priorities going forward?**

*What I would like to be able to do is look at the decisions examined in the 45-day review in four categories: Do It, Boil, Simmer, and Defer. A good example is getting to glass for the direct-feed*

*low activity waste (DFLAW) approach to tank waste treatment at Hanford. Some of the decisions needed now are getting the documented safety analysis completed and ensuring that we have the necessary permits, as well as ensuring from a cost-and-schedule standpoint that we're on track. So that's what I look at, especially as to where we need to place that idea of timely decisions.*



Acting EM Assistant Secretary  
Jim Owendoff

*As always, we need to be mindful of the budget. We'll be working on the FY (fiscal year) 2019 budget in the next few months. So that's our opportunity to not only look at where we need money but where we need certain policy decisions. As we're working through that budget request, we need to ensure, for example, that we have adequate money for the liquid waste efforts down at Savannah River. We've made such an investment in the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) as well as the other liquid waste facilities, and we need to*

*bring the SWPF online and we need to ensure that everything is in place to bring it online.*

**What do you see as potential opportunities for near-term success?**

*I think across the EM complex, if you look at every site, there are opportunities for success. Certainly at Hanford, getting the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) down is going to be a great accomplishment. Also at Hanford, for the cleanup along the River Corridor, getting the records of decision to guide cleanup and waste management activities in place is going to be a good accomplishment.*

*At Oak Ridge, I see as a near-term success, what we've been able to do at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and bringing those buildings down brings us closer to converting ETTP into a commercial-use industrial park. At Idaho, we are getting closer to having the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) up and*

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## **New Acting EM Assistant Secretary Jim Owendoff Lays Out His Vision**

*running, hopefully in the next several months and start processing sodium-bearing waste. At Savannah River, we're making progress in treating salt waste, bringing us closer to emptying the sites tank waste. In fact, each of our sites are making tremendous progress.*

**The new Administration has shown its support for the EM mission through measures such as the FY 2018 budget request, which is the largest for the EM program in a decade. How does that support and backing further help the EM program?**

*I think it demonstrates to the entire EM workforce, both federal and contractor, as well as to the local communities, the support from the Administration for the EM program to continue to make progress in our cleanup work. I think our job now, and always, is to be able to wring out efficiencies where we can, get things done and demonstrate that we can make effective use of those dollars. That is what I look at and a lot of my focus is looking at the effective execution of our \$6.5 billion program. That is an awful lot of money, and we need to ensure that each dollar is being utilized efficiently and effectively.*

**Along with the 45-day review, another action you have taken is the creation of the new Office of Special Projects here at EM headquarters, headed up by former senior EM official Dae Chung with an initial focus on the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). What was your thinking and intent behind setting up that office?**

*The WTP is one of the largest projects within EM. It's the largest project within the Department and it's probably the largest project across the federal government. So with that, I felt we needed one individual that lives and breathes getting DFLAW up and running with a singular focus here at headquarters. Certainly the federal project director (FPD) has his job in ensuring that it gets accomplished, but here at headquarters, we need someone who is not only working from a resources standpoint, but ensuring that we bring the various offices here together at headquarters to ensure*

*we're really looking for any opportunities to clear away any hindrances and not waiting for those challenges to come up. Let's be looking forward and resolve them ahead of time before they become an issue.*

*I would like to see if we can make glass at Hanford earlier than 2022, where it is appropriate, or at least at this juncture. We need to get ahead of the schedule, so when we do run into challenges during commissioning, we have built in some additional time to be able to resolve those challenges. So that's what this office and Dae will do — a singular focus in working with the FPD and management at the Office of River Protection.*

**With WTP being such a large part of EM and DOE, how much of an accomplishment will that be once DFLAW is operational?**

*I think we have seen within EM that we have the ability with these one-of-a-kind waste treatment facilities to complete construction and bring them online. We were able to get the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) plants at Paducah and Portsmouth up and running, though we have had some challenges with continuing to run them. With the IWTU, it was the next level of complexity and it has demonstrated that it has some issues.*

*The Salt Waste Processing Facility is looking like Parsons (our contractor) has done an excellent job of completing construction and starting commissioning, and it looks like we have learned that we need to pay some more attention to certain areas. The whole nuclear industry has atrophied so there has been that challenge of available materials, workforce, and engineering capabilities. But I think with the SWPF, we have turned that corner.*

*At WTP, DFLAW will just be that next iteration. On the one hand it's not as complex as the SWPF, but it is complex in the size of it and the material going through it there, as well as the complexity of the melters. It will be good for EM to be able to demonstrate that we can do that. It will be excellent for the state and the community, as well as for the Administration and Congress, and their confidence in providing us the money to proceed.*

**To wrap things up, what challenges do you see coming up? What are the things that keep you awake at night, so to speak?**

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## New Acting EM Assistant Secretary Jim Owendoff Lays Out His Vision

*EM is target-rich as to challenges. First and foremost is the safety of our workers and the safety of the communities near our sites, both in terms of industrial safety as well as radiological safety and potential exposure. We need safe environments, safe work practices, and consideration for all workers.*

*Another challenge is the tunnels at Hanford and the broader question of infrastructure. When you have something like the partial collapse of Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant (PUREX) Tunnel 1 that occurred,*

*you look at it and say, 'Could that have been preventable?' You look at the other facilities that we have that are older and are similar and the things that we should be doing. We know there is always that balance between looking at the current facilities and ensuring they are in a safe place and being able to make progress on projects like bringing PFP down to slab-on-grade, or what we're trying to do at Portsmouth to D&D (deactivation and decommissioning) facilities there.*

*There is never enough money so we could say we want to go full on everything. Even if we had more money, there are still going to be competing priorities. You can't do it all at once in a year or two years or five years. Some things just take time.*

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## Lessons Learned from DOE Cleanups

In response, ECA published [\*The Politics of Cleanup\*](#) in 2007, which reviewed two federal facilities slated for closure – the Rocky Flats Site in Colorado and the Mound Site in Ohio – and one with an ongoing federal mission, the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee. These sites serve as different models that give rise to a set of recommendations for how Congress, federal and state agencies, state and local governments, and other stakeholders can partner to resolve technical and policy issues and thus clean up federal facilities in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The recommendations in the ECA report, listed below, are still applicable today at active cleanup sites across the EM complex.

**1. All Parties Must Collaborate** – The federal government, local governments, community members, state and federal agencies, and Congress must agree upon the cleanup purpose and long-term vision for the site.

**2. Know the Rules** – The law defines the cleanup process and the opportunity to participate in the process. All parties must know the law in order to understand their roles and how each can affect the cleanup process.

**3. Understand Federal Agencies' Goals** – The parties must consider the federal government's overarching mission and goals. Constraints faced by the federal government must be recognized by all other parties and their potential positive and negative impacts on the cleanup must be understood.

**4. Use a Cleanup Contract with Defined Goals** – Closure contracts must identify clear milestones and contractor incentives for accomplishing the cleanup mission. Contracts establish expectations among all parties involved, provide a cleanup vision for Congress to fund, focus the parties on the scope of work necessary to accomplish cleanup, and provide a basis for community members and Congress to gauge cleanup progress – which can increase trust and confidence in the cleanup.

**5. Understand Community Values** – To properly collaborate, parties must work to understand the values of the community wherein the cleanup is taking place and must work to incorporate such values in the planning process.

**6. Education Is Essential** – The parties must take time to educate each other on the technical and policy issues underlying the cleanup and commit staff resources to engage one another. Discussions

(Continued on page 11)

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## Lessons Learned from DOE Cleanups

must also include the question of technical risk and perceptions of risk.

**7. Congress Must Make Cleanup a Legislative Priority** – Federal lawmakers should understand the needs of parties involved and become intimately involved in cleanup decisions. Active engagement, allows Congress to be better poised to support the necessary actions, such as appropriations or changes in law, that can help facilitate cleanup.

**8. Local Presence Facilitates Cleanup** – The federal entity charged with cleanup and federal and state regulatory agencies must have a local presence and must address problems resulting from staff turnover that negatively affect cleanup and public involvement efforts. The further away key decision-makers are from the cleanup site and affected community, the more likely they are to perceive the concerns of that community as being merely theoretical.

**9. Federal Agency Leadership Sets the Tone** – The federal entity charged with cleaning up a site must establish management policies that challenge the staff to complete the job and broadly communicate agency policies to affected constituencies and to Congress.

**10. All Parties Must Take Into Account Post-Cleanup Requirements** – Cleanup completion typically means that contamination will be left in

place; thus, identifying sources of long-term funding and clarifying the roles of affected parties are essential.

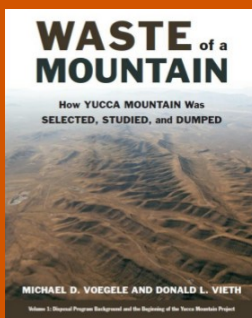
**11. The Parties Must Build a Working Relationship** – All parties must take the necessary steps to develop and maintain trust, accountability, and openness.

**12. Be Organized** – Local governments and the community must be organized and proactive and strive to speak with one voice.

**13. Resources Ensure Parties Can Participate** – The federal government and Congress must provide regulators and communities with the financial resources necessary to organize and retain the staffing resources they need. Without federal funding, local governments and community organizations will struggle to secure the funds to actively engage on site issues.

**14. Following the Minimum in the Law Is Not Enough** – Minimum regulatory requirements are insufficient to support substantive public involvement; the parties must develop public involvement processes that are tailored to site-specific needs, recognizing that process is different from negotiations.

**15. Engage Each Other Regularly** – The parties must substantively engage each other throughout the entire cleanup and reuse planning process. The ability to resolve conflicts flows directly from engaging in a dialogue at the start of the process when goals are being defined and cleanup strategies are being developed.



Yucca Mountain proponents and opponents are preparing for a fresh fight in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, but the politics of today are still greatly colored by the long history of the proposed repository. The book, *Waste of a Mountain*, tells the story of the 70-year-long effort to dispose of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain. The book, written by Michael Voegele and Donald Vieth, details the history of government action in the effort to locate and develop a site for the permanent disposition of the waste. The book is available on the Pahrump Valley Museum's website [here](#).

## SRS COMPLETES NEW DISPOSAL UNIT FOR SALTSTONE WASTE

Liquid waste contractor Savannah River Remediation completed construction on a new 32.8-million gallon Saltstone Disposal Unit 6 (SDU 6) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Work on SDU 6 was completed 16 months ahead of schedule and \$25 million under budget.

“The SDUs are an important part of our cleanup mission and underscore the Department of Energy’s continued commitment to furthering progress on the closure of the high-level waste tanks at SRS,” said Jack Craig, DOE-Savannah River manager to the [Aiken Standard](#).

SDUs serve as final disposal sites for a solid grout matrix composed of cement and decontaminated salt solution, which makes up about 90 percent of SRS tank waste volume that has been separated from highly radioactive isotopes.

SDU 6 performs the same function as the six previous 3-million gallon SDUs at the site, but has a modified, efficient design that more closely resembles commercial water tank applications. This new design’s reduced need for infrastructure and materials is expected to save SRS more than \$500 million over the life of the low-level saltstone waste storage program. According to an [EM Update](#), it also means that “SRS will need only seven of the larger units to meet mission needs — equivalent to 80 of the smaller units — and DOE has approved the concept of replicating the efficient SDU 6 design for all remaining SDUs.”



The Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site liquid waste contractor, Savannah River Remediation, successfully conducted a leak tightness test last week on the newly constructed Saltstone Disposal Unit 6. SDU 6 is the first 30-million-gallon, mega-volume salt waste disposal unit constructed at SRS.

## MAJOR CONTRACTS AND AWARDS

### *NNSA Issues Draft RFP for Los Alamos National Lab Management & Operations Contract*

On July 13, NNSA released a [draft RFP](#) for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) management and operation contract. According to the statement of work, NNSA is seeking contractors to provide research and development to enable safe nuclear explosive operations, ensure the security of the national nuclear weapons stockpile, and ensure secure handling and safe disposition of plutonium, highly enriched uranium, and tritium. Additionally, prospective contractors would be required under the contract to conduct research to support DOE’s nuclear energy programs, remediate and restore the LANL site, and manage waste treatment, storage, and disposal.

Since June 2006, the LANL facility has been managed and operated by Los Alamos National

Security, a joint venture between AECOM, Bechtel, BWXT Government Group, and the University of California.

Following the release of the draft RFP, local business organizations and non-profits voiced concerns about the new contract, arguing that it may not provide as much support to the region and county as the current contract. According to the [Los Alamos Monitor](#), Los Alamos County Manager Harry Burgess noted that the contract mentions the county just two times in its 50 pages. Burgess stated, “We feel that given our formal relationship with the operator through fire, utilities, transit and dispatch, it warrants fleshing that out a little bit.”

*(Continued on page 14)*

(Continued from page 1)

## ECA Submits Comments to DOE on Streamlining Operations and Regulations

engagement between DOE and local governments are vital to ensuring a unity of purpose that advanced DOE mission priorities.

2. **Integrate ECA's acquisition reform recommendations and principles**— Host communities should be recognized as faithful customers who have the highest stake in contract performance.
3. **Review the authority of DOE per Order 435.1 to categorize radioactive waste by radiological composition rather than origin of the waste**— Clarifying the definition of defense high-level waste can create additional risk-based disposal pathways, expedite cleanup, and save taxpayer dollars.
4. **Resolve the maintenance and infrastructure backlog**— Aging infrastructure, maintenance backlogs, and excess facilities must be addressed in order to accomplish DOE missions.
5. **Address succession planning and looming workforce transition issues**— Long-term partnerships with local communities help

address the aging workforce and recruiting shortfalls present at facilities across the complex.

6. **Enhance host community support and property transfer**— DOE should recognize and reward the contribution of host communities to DOE missions.
7. **Optimize coordination and communication among DOE offices**— Lack of quality communication leads to bureaucratic confusion and message inconsistency, and can slow mission progress at the site and headquarter levels.

As ECA notes in its comments, “Local government input and support should not be taken for granted as meaningful, ongoing engagement [by DOE] can save time, alleviate confusion, build trust, save DOE hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, and assist DOE in accomplishing its missions.”

The RFI was issued by DOE in response to [Executive Order 13771](#) issued by President Trump in January 2017, which required that “whenever an executive department or agency publicly proposes for notice and comment or otherwise promulgates a new regulation it shall identify at least two existing regulations to be replaced.”

## SRS CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST TANK CLOSURE

July 2017 marks the 20-year anniversary of the Savannah River Site's closure of a high-level waste tank. The closure was the first in the nation and set a precedent for forthcoming tank closures across the complex. Westinghouse Savannah River Company workers cleaned and poured a specialized grout into the 1.3 million-gallon tank, which had been placed into service in 1960, finishing the closure process in July 1997. This also marked the first time the specialized concrete-like grout was used in an empty high-level waste tank for removal from service.

DOE conducted an extensive closure process, receiving input from the public and local government, holding negotiations with regulators, and receiving approval to close Tank 20 by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

According to an [EM article](#), then-DOE-Savannah River Waste Disposition Manager Jim Folk, DOE was successful in proving that the high-level waste could be removed from the tanks, and that “The final step was proving the tank could be filled with grout and operationally closed, never to be used again.” Since the SRS closure, several similar closure processes have been used at locations such as EM's Idaho and Hanford sites.



(Continued from page 12)

## Major Contracts and Awards

Furthermore, the new contract does not contain long-term partnership requirements. Under the current contract, the county has received support through partnerships, such as a \$3 million Community Development Grant through the LANL Community Partnerships Office. However, because the performance fee in the new contract has been reduced from 3% to 1%, local organizations worry that the region may not see the same level of support.

Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation, encouraged NNSA to “require bidders to include a community commitment plan in their bid. We’d like for the community commitment plan to focus on promotion of regional purchasing for regional businesses.”

Executive Director of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities Andrea Romero added, “The key takeaway that we’ve seen so far is that the local communities are definitely not at all involved in the process of the next activities at the laboratory in the way the contract currently reads.”

### ***DOE Releases Request for Information/Sources Sought and Announces Industry and Community Days for Savannah River Site Paramilitary Security Services Procurement***

On July 26, DOE released a [Request for Information/Sources Sought](#) for the Paramilitary Security Services contract at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Department is seeking input from contractors regarding industry capabilities to meet the requirements of the contract and potential alternatives. The current contract, which is held by Centerra, LLC, expires on October 7, 2019. DOE also announced an Industry Day, scheduled for

August 14, 2017, and a Community Day, scheduled for August 15, 2017 in Augusta, Georgia. At these events, industry participants and community stakeholders will have the opportunity to “improve the understanding of the requirements and industry capabilities, enhance DOE’s ability to obtain quality services, and increase efficiency in the procurement process.”

### ***DOE Issues Request for Information for Hanford 222-S Laboratory Contract***

EM’s Consolidated Business Center released a [Sources Sought/Request for Information](#) for the Hanford 222-S Laboratory contract on July 26. Potential contractors would perform all or part of the management and services at the DOE Office of River Protection (ORP). DOE has not yet determined the type contract or period of performance. From August 29-30, DOE will conduct a site visit to receive feedback regarding “options for innovative approaches for the performance of scope elements, as well as insight into potential contracting alternatives to achieve the EM goals for the remaining projects at ORP.”

### ***DOE Issues Request for Proposals for Portsmouth Paducah Project Office Technical Support Services***

On July 3, DOE released a [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for the Portsmouth Paducah Project Office Technical Support Services (TSS) acquisition. Seeking to accelerate cleanup, the contract for technical and administrative support contains a \$0 guaranteed minimum value of services and a \$40 million maximum value of services. The objective of the TSS contract is to provide technical and administrative support to assist DOE with the oversight and management of the cleanup efforts at the Portsmouth and Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plants.



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## LOS ALAMOS MUSEUM FEATURES EXHIBIT ON THE MANHATTAN PROJECT



Some 40 interactive exhibits trace the history of the WWII Manhattan Project, highlight Los Alamos Laboratory's current and historic research projects related to defense and technology, and focus on Laboratory research related to national and international economic, environmental, political, and social concerns. These exhibits together with

On Friday, July 14, the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, New Mexico opened a new exhibit called *Manhattan on the Mesa*. Funded by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and DOE in partnership with New Mexico Highlands University, the exhibit features a virtual tour of five buildings within LANL's Technical Area 18 that are not currently open to the public.

The exhibition offers visitors a look into the Slotin Building, Pond, Cabin, and other Manhattan Project-era buildings. The virtual tour features an interactive video of how the buildings look today and a multi-drawer box that offers sensory experiences to fully immerse museum visitors.

Linda Deck, director of the Bradbury Science Museum, explained the significance of the exhibition by saying, "When you think of Yellowstone, it's the hot springs' geysers [that draw visitors.] For the Manhattan Project, it's the buildings, because that's where the work actually went on."

The museum and New Mexico Highlands University have also partnered to develop the film, *The Town that Never Was*, which, according to the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#), details "the scientific work of making the first bombs and how this mission evolved through the Cold War and into the lab's current enterprises," according to the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#).

## INTERIM VISITOR CENTER FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AT HANFORD ANNOUNCED

On July 25, DOE, the National Parks Service, and Port of Benton [announced the dedication](#) of the Interim Visitor Center for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford. At the newly renovated center, visitors can engage in tours of attractions such as the B Reactor National Historic Landmark and pre-war buildings in Hanford and White Bluffs. Since 2009, the B Reactor National Historic Landmark has been open to the public for tours, which has drawn around 70,000 visitors from all 50 states and 80 countries.

Port of Benton has made various improvements to the interim visitor center throughout the last year, including a remodeling of the interior to allow space for a research library, DOE and NPS staff, and park

merchandise. In total, the improvements cost \$127,000. Tours of the interim visitor center are now available six days per week from April to November.

According to Park Superintendent Kris Kirby, "This space provides a terrific canvas for us to orient our visitors to the complex and unforgettable story of the Manhattan Project and prepare them for their time in the Park."

Manhattan Project National Historic Park was approved by Congress in 2014 and is co-managed by DOE and NPS. NPS is expected to conduct a study and select a permanent location for the visitor center in the future.



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

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CALL

## 2017 Congressional Calendar



Both chambers in session  
 Both chambers in recess  
 Senate only in session  
 House only in session

## July

M	T	W	T	F
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

## August

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

## September

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21 Rosh Hashanah	22
25	26	27	28	29 Yom Kippur begins

## October

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

## November

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10 Veterans Day (observed)
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24
27	28	29	30	


## December

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13 Hanukkah begins	14	15
18	19	20 Hanukkah ends	21	22
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29

Credit CQ Roll Call: <http://troutmansandersstrategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CQ-2017-Congressional-Calendar.pdf>

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--Bill Gates

**Other topics include:**

- U.S. Nuclear Policy Leadership in the Trump Era
- Energy Security and the Electrical Grid
- A discussion of federal energy budget and policy by Rep. Mike Simpson, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Water and Energy.



# 2017 Upcoming Events

<b>August 16-17</b>	<b>ECA Peer Exchange on Manhattan Project National Historical Park Implementation</b> , Richland, WA, <i>(invitation only)</i> ; contact <a href="mailto:meganc@energyca.org">meganc@energyca.org</a> with questions.
<b>September 5</b>	Congress returns from August recess
<b>September 12</b>	<b>ECA Members Meeting</b> , Alexandria, VA; contact <a href="mailto:meganc@energyca.org">meganc@energyca.org</a> with questions.
<b>September 12-14</b> 	<b>2017 National Cleanup Workshop</b> , Alexandria, VA; visit <a href="http://www.cleanupworkshop.com">www.cleanupworkshop.com</a> or contact <a href="mailto:meganc@energyca.org">meganc@energyca.org</a> for details.
<b>September 13</b>	House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus Event
<b>September 30</b>	FY 2017 ends
<b>October 1</b>	FY 2018 begins
<b>November 15-17</b>	<b>Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE</b> , New Orleans, LA (likely location)

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