ECA PUBLISHES NEW REPORT: DOE MUST PURSUE A NEW APPROACH TO WASTE MANAGEMENT

ECA released a new report _Waste Disposition: A New Approach to DOE’s Waste Management Must Be Pursued_.

ECA’s report outlines near-term actions that can help EM cut years of operations; reduce the number, size and duration of storage facilities needed before a HLW repository is available; accelerate tank retrievals and closures; and realize savings of more than $40 billion from the estimated $257 billion current life-cycle cost of the Environmental Management (EM) program.

The paper outlines alternative approaches to waste management, beginning with clarifying how nuclear waste types across the complex are defined. By basing treatment and disposal decisions on the actual characteristics of waste and the risk to human health and safety – rather than

(Continued on page 5)

2017 NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON EM 45-DAY REVIEW, TIMELY DECISION-MAKING

Over 650 participants attended the third annual National Cleanup Workshop in Alexandria, VA on September 13-14. The workshop was hosted ECA with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG).

Workshop attendees heard from senior DOE leadership and site officials, elected officials, industry executives, and other stakeholders on the progress and future direction of the Office of Environmental Management’s (EM) cleanup efforts across the DOE complex.

Notable speakers included DOE Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette, EM Acting Assistant Secretary Jim Owendoff, Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN),

(Continued on page 4)
On September 26, ECA Chairman, Chuck Smith, testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior, Energy and Environment, at its hearing, “Examining America’s Nuclear Waste Management and Storage.”

Smith highlighted ECA’s new report (see page 1) and emphasized the opportunity to save taxpayers upwards of $40 billion by clarifying waste definitions to reflect radiological composition rather than point of origin. Smith was joined on the witness panel by representatives of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Union of Concerned Scientists, The Heritage Foundation and the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Community Engagement Panel.

Much of the discussion during the question and answer period focused around Yucca Mountain, consolidated interim storage and funding for waste management and disposal. Mr. Smith outlined ECA’s long-standing support for moving forward with the Yucca Mountain licensing application - a majority viewpoint among those testifying - as well as ECA’s support for pursuing consolidated interim storage in parallel with opening a geologic repository. As the only representative of stakeholders around DOE’s federal facilities, Smith also reminded the subcommittee that the government must prioritize disposal of defense high-level waste along with commercial spent nuclear fuel given the government’s responsibility for both.

### ECA Executive Board Election

**November 15, 2017**

**Grand Hyatt Riverwalk**

**San Antonio, Texas**

ECA will hold a Board meeting and Executive Board Elections on November 15, 2017 at the 2017 Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting will start at 2:00pm CDT.

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (see below) if you would like to nominate someone for an ECA Executive Board position.

Amy Fitzgerald: AFitzgerald@oakridgetn.gov

Pam Larsen: plarsen@ci.richland.wa.us

Rick McLeod: rick.mcleod@srscro.org

### Current Executive Board Members

- **Chair Chuck Smith;** Councilman, Aiken County, SC
- **Vice-Chair Steve Young;** Mayor, Kennewick, WA
- **Secretary Ron Woody;** Executive, Roane County, TN
- **Treasurer Rick Reiss;** Councilor, Los Alamos, NM
- **Member-At-Large Dick Doss;** Councilman, Carlsbad, NM
- **Past-Chair Bob Thompson;** Mayor, Richland, WA
Congress returned to Washington on September 5 with a full legislative agenda. With just 12 working days in September before the end of the fiscal year, House and Senate leaders have acted quickly to pass a continuing resolution (CR) and avoid a government shutdown. On September 8, Congress passed a CR that will extend current funding levels through December 8. The CR will give legislators an extension beyond the September 30 deadline to agree on funding for fiscal year 2018.

**National Defense Authorization Act**

On September 18, the Senate passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (“NDAA”) (H.R. 2810) on an 89-8 vote. The House passed its version of the legislation on July 14. A conference committee will meet to resolve the different levels of funding in the two versions of the NDAA, ultimately sending a negotiated bill to both chambers for final passage.

The NDAA authorizes funding levels for defense programs and activities, including the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM). Concurrently, the congressional appropriations committees have been working to appropriate the funds within the authorized levels.

Overall, the Senate bill authorized a total of $700 billion, comprised of $640 billion in base defense spending and $60 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds. OCO funds are exempt from the budget caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The Senate bill, House bill, and President’s budget request all exceed the $549 billion budget cap for base defense spending. Congress is now pressured to either raise or eliminate the budget caps on the defense budget. If a final bill exceeding the budget caps is passed, sequestration would be triggered, meaning the defense budget would face an across-the-board cut. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) introduced an amendment that would eliminate these automatic spending cuts, but the measure was ultimately not included in the Senate’s final bill.

The Senate bill authorized $21 billion in total discretionary funding for Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, an increase of around $561.9 million above the President’s budget request. Of that total discretionary funding amount, the Senate bill authorized $14.5 billion for NNSA, while the President’s budget request contained $13.3 billion for NNSA. The authorized amount is a nearly $1.6 billion increase over the fiscal year 2017 level.

For weapons activities, the Senate bill authorized $10.5 billion, a $273.6 million above the President’s budget request. Within the weapons activities spending, the bill authorized $868 million for operations of facilities.

Finally, $2 billion were authorized for defense nuclear nonproliferation, which is around $250.3 million above the President’s budget request.

Notably, the Senate did not include in its bill a provision that would require the Secretary of Energy to evaluate the classification of certain defense waste. The House-passed bill did include this provision, which states, “The Secretary of Energy shall conduct an evaluation of the feasibility, costs, and cost savings of classifying certain defense nuclear waste as other than high-level radioactive waste, without decreasing environmental, health, or public safety requirements.” ECA recently released a related report (see page 1) about clarifying how nuclear waste types across the complex are defined. The conference committee will determine whether to include this provision in the final negotiated bill.

In the Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal portion of both the House and Senate bills, there is $30 (Continued on page 6)
Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID), U.S. Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Chairman Sean Sullivan, ECA Chair Chuck Smith, and EFCOG Chair Billy Morrison.

The central theme of the two-day workshop was the sense of urgency at DOE to move forward cleanup timetables and make notable progress across the complex. As Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette stated during his opening remarks, “The cleanup mission has to be on a final path that is sooner, safer, and at less cost to the taxpayers.”

“The communities that helped us win the Cold War and keep the peace today answered the call to their nation. It is now our turn to answer their call to clean up this legacy and provide those communities with a brighter tomorrow. That is EM’s mission in a nutshell,” said Brouillette.

Throughout the workshop, much of the discussion centered on EM’s recent 45-day review. As Jim Owendoff stated, the 45-day review is a “first look at what are the decisions we have out there that are coming up, in the next year, year and a half or so, that we need to ensure we get those decisions made. Or, what are the decisions that have languished that we’ve not – for whatever reason – gotten together to make.”

Owendoff stressed the need for EM’s site managers across the complex to bring forth decisions and begin working with the local communities, tribes, and other stakeholders to achieve
ECA Publishes New Report on Nuclear Waste Disposition

continuing to classify waste based on origin – DOE can move waste out of host communities more efficiently using a smarter, risk-based decision framework.

ECA is recommending five near-term actions for Congress and/or the DOE to more appropriately classify waste, address EM’s growing environmental liability, and demonstrate a real commitment to its stakeholders to move waste as expeditiously and safely as possible:

1. Congress needs to provide statutory clarification under the existing definition of high-level waste (HLW) in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to allow some wastes derived from reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel to be managed as “other than HLW.”

2. DOE must immediately revise its radioactive waste management policy (DOE Order 435.1) to clarify that waste will be managed and dispositioned according to its characteristics, not its origin. This will allow some wastes currently categorized as HLW to more appropriately be treated as transuranic (TRU) waste or low-level waste in accordance with its composition, making alternative, nearer-term disposal paths available provided waste meets the acceptance criteria at existing disposal facilities.

3. DOE must begin working with the State of New Mexico on a permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to remove the prohibition for receipt of tank waste and wastes managed as HLW so that any TRU waste meeting the acceptance criteria can be disposed of at WIPP.

4. Congress and DOE should provide full funding for WIPP capital asset projects to resume the full range of waste disposal capabilities and ultimately increase capacity.

5. DOE should begin work on a number of pilot projects and waste management policy decisions in order to better understand alternative approaches and inform future policy decisions.

Each recommendation will require transparency and meaningful engagement with host communities and states to ensure a common understanding of the challenges and impacts of DOE’s waste management decisions.

“ECA supports DOE’s authority to make this change, however we believe it’s necessary to implement a two-pronged approach to address it statutorily within the Department and legislatively through Congress to codify the change. Our communities remain the de facto storage sites due to the government’s failure to take action to date. For us, such a strategy is well overdue,” said Chuck Smith, ECA Chairman and Aiken County, SC, Councilmember.

The paper is the work of an ECA committee and is written from the experience of local governments that host defense nuclear facilities, which are impacted by any policies regarding nuclear waste cleanup and management.

An online version of the report is available here. Please contact Kara Colton, ECA Director of Nuclear Energy Programs, at kara.colton@energyca.org.
million authorized for Yucca Mountain and interim storage.

Prior to the Senate’s passage, the White House released a Statement of Policy regarding NDAA, in which the administration reiterated, “The Administration strongly objects to section 3119 directing construction of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. The Administration appreciates the flexibility provided to the Secretary of Energy to waive that requirement and terminate the MOX project.” Despite the White House’s opposition, the Senate bill authorized $350 million for continued construction of MOX (an $80 million increase over the budget request).

**Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations**

With the CR, which extends current funding levels through December 8, Appropriators in both the House and the Senate now have time to agree on funding levels for fiscal year 2018.

The House passed the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018 (H.R. 3354), a $1.2 trillion package of all 12 appropriations bills, on September 14 by a vote of 211-198. Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) noted that the passage marks the first time since 2009 that all 12 bills have been approved under regular order. The House passed four of the appropriations measures on July 27 in a “minibus” package that included Defense, Legislative Branch, Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, and Energy and Water appropriations. H.R. 3354 combines the four minibus bills with the remaining eight appropriations bills—Interior; Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Financial Services; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education; Homeland Security; State and Foreign Operations; Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development.

The full package of House-passed appropriations appears unlikely to clear the Senate in its current form. Upon passage of H.R. 3354, Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) stated, “What the House passed today does not bring us any closer to responsibly funding the government, and it will not pass the Senate...We need a bipartisan budget deal based on parity, like the ones we had in 2013 and in 2015, that raises the post-sequester budget caps for both defense and non-defense programs to address the needs and the real priorities of our nation.”

**DOE and NRC Appointees**

On August 3, the Senate voted 79-17 to confirm Dan Brouillette as Deputy Secretary of Energy. Brouillette previously served as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs from 2001 to 2003.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources advanced the nominations of Paul Dabbar to be Under Secretary for Science and Mark Menezes to be Under Secretary of Energy on August 3. The two nominees await full confirmation by the Senate.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has scheduled a hearing for October 4 to consider Jeffery Baran’s reappointment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Two other Commissioner nominations—Annie Caputo and David Wright—await a full confirmation by the Senate.
### FY 2018 Appropriations Highlights*

(Not in thousands of dollars)

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*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.
ECA hosted a Peer Exchange on Implementation of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park on August 16-17 in Richland, WA. This meeting was the second ECA meeting to focus on the Park since it was officially established in November of 2015.

ECA members representing the Park’s three host communities: Los Alamos, NM; Oak Ridge, TN; and the communities surrounding Hanford, WA were joined by regional and national DOE and National Park Service (NPS) leaders to discuss the status of the Park and opportunities to advance it forward. In total, approximately 60 people attended the Peer Exchange.

Tour of historical and cleanup sites at Hanford

The first day of the Peer Exchange featured a tour of the historical and cleanup sites at the Hanford Reservation. Attendees were able to visit Hanford High School and White Bluffs Bank – landmarks that were abandoned by citizens after the U.S. government condemned the sites for use in the Manhattan Project in 1943. Attendees also toured T-Plant, a chemical separations canyon that processed the plutonium for the Trinity Test and the “Fat Man” bomb dropped over Nagasaki, Japan.

Update from DOE, NPS, and the communities

The second day of the Peer Exchange featured presentations from park leadership, local elected officials, and other invited guests.

Thomas Pauling, Deputy Director of the DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) and Tracy Atkins, Principal Representative for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at LM spoke about the work LM has accomplished at its different sites across the DOE complex, and the accomplishments and priorities of LM for the Park moving forward. NPS Park Superintendent Kris Kirby also spoke about the recently published Foundation Document for the Park, which explains the key interpretive themes that have been developed to tell the Park’s stories at its three sites. Kirby also discussed the next steps for NPS: developing an interpretive plan, a visitor access plan, a collections plan, a film about the Park, and continuing to make provisions for staffing at the three sites. DOE and NPS site managers from each of the three sites also shared updates on Park activities.

ECA members Mayor Brent Gerry of West Richland, WA; Councilor Rick Reiss of Los Alamos County, NM; and Councilman Chuck Hope of Oak Ridge, TN also spoke about actions taken over the past year to enhance the Park in their communities. Mayor Gerry spoke about the recent dedication of an interim visitor center for the Park, outreach to local and regional Congressional staff,
and the wayfinding program in the Tri-Cities. Councilor Reiss highlighted the county’s partnerships with the Los Alamos Historical Society and Discover Los Alamos, the development of a Tourism Strategic Plan for the region, and the installation of public Wi-Fi in downtown Los Alamos. Councilman Hope spoke about the plans for the K-25 History Center, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and the International Friendship Bell.

**Unveiling the Park’s new brand**

The Peer Exchange also featured a presentation from the Park’s Branding and Marketing Committee. In ECA’s August 2016 Peer Exchange on the Park, meeting attendees agreed that the host communities needed to develop a distinct brand for the Park. This kicked-off a year-long effort by the tourism bureaus of each of the three sites to research and develop the brand. The effort culminated in Kris Watkins of Visit Tri-Cities, Marc DeRose of Explore Oak Ridge, and Patrick Sullivan of the Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation unveiling an early version of the Park’s new brand at the meeting. The brand was developed with the assistance of Al Moffatt of the Tombras Group – a Knoxville-based advertising firm. The Park’s Branding and Marketing Committee are now working on a style guide, marketing strategy, and three-year plan for the new brand.

**Optimizing partnerships and opportunities for philanthropy**

Linda Deck of the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, NM and Michael Mays of the Hanford History Project at Washington State University Tri-Cities spoke to Peer Exchange attendees about their experiences engaging local college students in the Park to enhance visitor experience and increase community involvement. At Los Alamos, Deck worked with students to design exhibits that expose museum-goers to portions of the Park currently not open to visitors. In the Tri-Cities, Mays talked about the Hanford Oral History Project, the Hanford Collection, a Freshman Seminar that teaches local students about the history of the Manhattan Project, and the Legacies of the Manhattan Project academic conference.

Jeff Reinbold, Assistant Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement at NPS discussed the important role of private philanthropy in supporting the Park. He noted that philanthropic dollars allow Park decision makers to be more strategic with how Park appropriations are used and when, as private dollars are not tied to the same slow timetables that federal dollars are. He discussed the rules and guidelines by which NPS and Park-supporting organizations must abide when accepting donations.

**Next steps for the Park**

The two-day Peer Exchange ended with discussion on the actions that must be taken to move forward with strong, joint support for the Park. The general consensus among the communities was the need to identify near- and long-term priorities for the Park at each of the three sites for both DOE and NPS so that the communities can develop coordinated, concise messaging.

After the meeting, ECA members attended a concert at the historic B Reactor. A recording of the concert is available [here](#). Copies of the agenda and speaker presentations from the Peer Exchange are available [here](#).
DOE COMPLETES SOIL CLEANUP AT LOS ALAMOS CANYON SITES

The DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) announced that the removal of contaminated soil at two Los Alamos Canyon sites has been completed.

Legacy outfalls and surface disposal from the Manhattan Project and Cold War era activities primarily led to the contaminated soil. Combined, the two sites made up less than one acre and were the last legacy sites at Los Alamos Canyon to be cleaned.

The cleanup, which began in May 2017, finished one month ahead of schedule. The excavated soil is being temporarily staged on DOE property and is set to be shipped for final disposition by the end of September.

Upon completion of the cleanup, EM-LA Program Manager Cheryl Rodriguez stated, “Removal of the contaminated soil at these two sites is a final step in our remediation activities within and around the Los Alamos Townsite. LANS and their subcontractors did a wonderful job planning and safely addressing these sites.”

SOUTH CAROLINA SUES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER PLUTONIUM AT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

South Carolina Attorney General, Alan Wilson, filed a $100 million lawsuit in federal claims court on August 7 for failing to remove one metric ton of plutonium stored at the Savannah River Site.

The complaint cites 50 USC Section 2566, a 2003 law requiring DOE to remove one metric ton of plutonium from the site by January 1, 2016, should the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility’s production objective not be met by that time, or pay the state $1 million per day, up to $100 million per year through 2021 as to prevent South Carolina from becoming a de facto permanent repository of nuclear waste.

The MOX Facility is nowhere close to fulfilling its production objective. Construction began in 2017 with an estimated pricetag of $4 billion. In August 2016, DOE’s revised cost estimate for completing construction of the facility was approximately $17.2 billion. Currently, it is only 70 percent complete, according to estimates.

So far, DOE has failed to process or remove the plutonium or pay the state the $100 million owed for 2016. According to Wilson’s complaint, the federal government cannot “renge on its obligations” and “leave South Carolina as the permanent dumping ground for weapons-grade plutonium.”
GAO REPORTS

Proposed Dilute and Dispose Approach Highlights Need for More Work at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

A September 5 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined the extent to which DOE has sufficient space at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, NM, to dispose of all defense transuranic (TRU) waste, including waste from the dilute and dispose approach proposed by NNSA to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus, weapons-grade plutonium. The report found that DOE does not have sufficient space at WIPP to dispose of all defense TRU waste without expansion of the facility, but that DOE’s TRU waste management plan does not include a schedule for expanding DOE’s disposal space before existing space is full. GAO identified four recommendations to ensure that DOE has a full understanding of the department’s long-term TRU waste disposal requirements and the capability of WIPP to meet those requirements:

1. Develop a schedule for deciding whether the volumes of "potential waste" identified in the annual TRU waste inventory report can be disposed of at WIPP;
2. Develop guidance that helps sites produce a more comprehensive estimate for the volumes of TRU waste that may be generated in the future from cleanup operations;
3. Develop a long-term plan for disposing of TRU waste that includes the need for excavating additional disposal space at WIPP and an integrated schedule that describes how DOE will complete the regulatory approval process and construction of new space before WIPP’s existing space is full; and
4. Develop a timeline to help determine whether DOE can change its method of counting waste volumes to meet NNSA’s 2020 milestone for resolving potential disposal space constraints at WIPP.

A Complete Scope of Work Is Needed to Develop Timely Cost and Schedule Information for the Uranium Program

A September 8 GAO report found that a complete scope of work is needed to develop a life-cycle cost estimate and integrated master schedule for NNSA’s uranium program. NNSA has made progress in developing a revised scope of work, cost estimate, and schedule for its project to construct a new Uranium Processing Facility, but has not developed a complete scope of work for the overall uranium program. The report recommends that NNSA set a time frame for completing the scope of work, life-cycle cost estimate, and integrated master schedule for the overall uranium program.
Major Contracts and Awards

DOE EM Delays Award of Contract at LANL – Extends Existing Contract

On September 26, DOE’s Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) announced a six-month, $65 million extension of the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Bridge Contract. Under the contract, Los Alamos National Security LLC (LANS) provides cleanup services such as Solid Waste Stabilization and Soil and Water Remediation. Also included in the scope of work is deactivating and decommissioning nuclear facilities. DOE extended the contract to complete near-term work without disruption and to provide EM with time to complete the longer term Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract (LLCC). The extended contract is now set to expire on March 31, 2018.

NNSA Awards Jacobs Joint Venture NNSS M&O Contract

On September 6, NNSA announced a management and operating contract awarded to Mission Support and Test Services LLC (MSTS) for the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). MSTS is a joint venture between Honeywell International Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., and Stoller Newport News Nuclear, Inc. The value of the contract is $5 billion over 10 years, and the phase-in of the M&O contract is set to conclude in November.

DOE Announces WIPP Contract Extension

DOE announced a three-year extension of the AECOM management and operations for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on September 15. The contract was originally awarded to the AECOM-led Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC in April 2012. The $928 million extended contract will expire on September 30, 2020 and includes an option to extend another two years.

DOE Awards Contract for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Technical Assistance Contract (TAC)

S&K Logistics Services received an Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contract from DOE on August 10, with a $20,000 guaranteed minimum value of services and $24.5 million maximum value of services. According to DOE, the Moab UMTRA Project is “to relocate mill tailings and other contaminated materials from a former uranium-ore processing facility (millsite) and from off-site properties known as vicinity properties in Moab, Utah, to an engineered disposal cell constructed near Crescent Junction, Utah.”

DOE Releases Final Request for Proposals for Low-Level Waste / Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Procurement

The DOE Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) issued a final Request for Proposals regarding the Low-Level Waste/Mixed Low-Level Waste (LLW/MLLW) Disposal procurement. The indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract would allow DOE sites to “place fixed-unit-price task orders for waste disposal” with an expected ceiling of $120 million. Interested parties would be required to safely dispose of LLW/MLLW, Section 11e,(2) byproduct material, technologically-enhanced and naturally-occurring radioactive material (TENORM), and sealed sources.
NRC APPROVES FURTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN LICENSING PROCESS

On August 8, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced that it has approved further actions related to its review of DOE’s application for authorization to construct a high-level radioactive waste repository at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada. The decision was approved on a 2-1 vote.

The NRC intends to engage in information-gathering activities related to the suspended adjudication of the application that will enable “efficient, informed decisions in support of executing any further appropriations of funds for the High-Level Waste Program.” It has directed NRC staff to hold a meeting of the Licensing Support Network (LSN) Advisory Review Panel to provide information to, and gather input from, advisory panel members and the public regarding reconstitution of the LSN or a suitable replacement system.

LSN was an online database of nearly 4 million documents supporting the adjudication on the Yucca Mountain application. The hearing was suspended in 2011 and LSN was decommissioned. The NRC has limited expenditures for restarting LSN and other information gathering activities to $110,000 from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

During an April 26 hearing by the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment on the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 (H.R. 3053), former head of DOE’s Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), Edward Sproat, testified that the redevelopment of the expertise and infrastructure related to the adjudication of the Yucca Mountain application would be necessary to successfully proceed with the licensing process for the repository. The reconstitution of LSN is an important first step for the NRC as it redevelops the capabilities necessary to address the hundreds of contentions that must be adjudicated and appealed as part of the Yucca Mountain application review.

HANFORD SITE MANAGER SELECTED FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

On September 12, the National Park Service announced Becky Burghart as the new Site Manager for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park at Hanford, WA. Burghart, who is currently the Chief of Interpretation at White Sands National Monument, is expected to begin serving in her new role this fall.

As site manager, Burghart will be responsible for developing a plan to highlight Hanford’s role in the Manhattan Project during World War II. After managing exhibits and a film project at White Sands visitor center, she earned the National Park Service’s Intermountain Region Freeman Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation. At the Hanford location of the Park, Burghart will work with the Tri-Cities community to produce interpretive information for the park.

Kris Kirby, superintendent of the Manhattan National Historical Park, said, “Becky comes to [the Park] with a breadth of experience facilitating complicated dialogue and interpreting complex histories. She also greatly values the contributions of local communities and external partners, citing them as a key piece in the overall success of the Park.”
On September 12, ECA hosted a meeting of the Board of Directors in Alexandria, VA. ECA members met with senior EM officials, including Acting Assistant Secretary Jim Owendoff, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (APDAS) for Field Operations Stacy Charboneau, APDAS for Regulatory and Policy Affairs Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management Ralph Holland, and Director of EM’s Office of External Affairs Kristen Ellis.

During the meeting, ECA members discussed EM’s 45-day review, EM and NNSA contracting issues, ECA’s recent report on nuclear waste disposition, Payments in Lieu of Taxes, on-site disposal cells, and other ECA priorities. ECA also spoke with the National Institute of Environmental Health about the economic impacts of a DOE nuclear worker training program.

The next ECA Board of Directors meeting will be November 15, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. At the meeting, ECA will be holding elections for the 2018 ECA Executive Board (see page 2 for more details).

If you have any questions about upcoming ECA meetings, please contact ECA Program Manager at meganc@energyca.org.

**ECA Members Call upon House Appropriations to Update PILT Language in Committee Report**

A report by the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee published this summer directs DOE to “terminate all existing [Payments in lieu of taxes (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 original acquired.” The report then directs DOE to provide Congress with 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.”

ECA members recommend that the House revise this report language and direct DOE to continue PILT payments as DOE prepares its report on the Congressionally-requested PILT information. PILT issues are complicated, and ECA communities are concerned that if DOE is required to terminate agreements prior to entering into new agreements, communities may not receive PILT payments for an unknown span of time.

PILT funds are used by DOE-impacted communities to support schools, hospital districts, roads, critical infrastructure, and to provide fire, police, and other vital municipal services – all of which supports DOE’s mission. Moreover, PILT funds are used to provide essential municipal services to DOE sites at levels, and in quantities, that otherwise far outstrip the community’s tax base. PILT funds are an essential offset that is used by the community to provide the support services. Even so, PILT payments are significantly below what private companies would contribute to local tax revenues for similar land and service usage.

ECA members with questions about PILT and ECA’s recommended revisions to the report language may contact ECA Program Manager Megan Casper at meganc@energyca.org for more information.
DOE INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS

WIPP Audit Report Released by DOE Inspector General

DOE’s Office of Inspector General conducted an audit of quality assurance management at WIPP, releasing its findings on September 14. The audit was initiated to determine whether WIPP was complying with the Department Order 414.1D Quality Assurance and whether it developed a Department-approved quality assurance plan.

The Inspector General audit noted four key findings that WIPP “did not always effectively:

1. Perform commercial grade dedications of items relied on for safety. We found instances where WIPP did not effectively perform technical evaluations and/or the acceptance process, which are both key parts of an effective commercial grade dedication.

2. Evaluate suppliers’ abilities to meet quality assurance requirements prior to and after contract award. One of WIPP’s methods for evaluating suppliers prior to contract award did not effectively evaluate a supplier’s ability to meet quality assurance requirements.

3. Identify the appropriate quality assurance requirements in contract documents. We found instances where WIPP did not specifically state in procurement documents the quality assurance program or standard that the supplier should adhere to.

4. Maintain adequate document control of quality assurance documents. The audit found instances where WIPP did not include document revision numbers, dates, and titles in its procurement documents to ensure the appropriate documents were utilized.

The audit concluded that “limited oversight” by the Carlsbad Field Office led to the discovered weaknesses. The Inspector General called on WIPP to take additional steps to comply with quality assurance requirements in the future, such as restructuring its Department oversight procedures and updating its nuclear quality assurance manual. The full audit report can be found here.

Check out Daughters of Hanford, a project that highlights women’s perspectives of the Hanford nuclear site. The project offers a cross-section of politicians, leaders, and environmental cleanup advocates - all women who were part of history and the future talent putting their minds on the nuclear site’s toughest problems. More information here.
## Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>FY 2017 ends</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>October 1</strong></td>
<td>FY 2018 begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15-17</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE, San Antonio, TX; contact <a href="mailto:meganc@energyca.org">meganc@energyca.org</a> with questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16-17</td>
<td>ECA Peer Exchange: Defense Nuclear Waste Disposition, Las Vegas, NV (tentative); contact <a href="mailto:meganc@energyca.org">meganc@energyca.org</a> with questions.</td>
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<td>March 18-22</td>
<td>2018 Waste Management Symposia; visit <a href="http://www.wmsym.org">www.wmsym.org</a> for more information.</td>
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### ECA Articles

- Megan Casper, Program Manager
- Dylan Kama, Program Manager
- Kara Colton, Director of Nuclear Energy Programs

### Layout and Design

- Sharon M. Worley, Administrative Assistant

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