



Energy Communities Alliance

Local concerns. National impact.

December BULLETIN

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DOE ANNOUNCES DEPARTMENT-WIDE REORGANIZATION

On December 15, DOE announced a [department-wide reorganization](#) that reassigns offices under two new undersecretary positions in what the agency has [called](#) a modernization of the organizational structure “to advance its policy goals consistent with its statutory requirements.”

The reorganization involves moving offices from the previous “Office of the Under Secretary for Science and Energy” into two separate offices: the “Office of the Under Secretary of Energy” and the “Office of the Under Secretary for Science.” The

previously-combined office was created by former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz in 2013.

In an interview with [Bloomberg Environment](#), Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette said that this organization would return the department to the structure that was laid out in the [Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977](#).

“We will remove some of the administrative functions from the undersecretaries, who are charged

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Congratulations to the New ECA Executive Committee

(see page 11)

Legislative Update

With 2017 coming to a close, the 115th Congress passed the [tax bill](#) giving final approval to the biggest changes to the U.S. tax code in decades and marking the first big legislative achievement of the year.

Nuclear Production Tax Credit

One thing absent from the final tax bill: the nuclear power production tax credit. An early version of the House tax bill included a \$6 billion

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ECA PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) MEETING ON INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

From December 4-8, 2017 the Energy Communities Alliance participated in a meeting focused on involving local governments in radioactive management issues and new reactor development. Forty-two (42) participants from 21 countries discussed and focused on how best to involve local governments and experiences with nuclear waste and development issues. The meeting focused the majority of time on siting permanent and interim waste management facilities. ECA highlighted its experiences in the area and the years of work raising awareness of the roles of local governments and communities. Seth Kirshenberg, ECA's Executive Director represented ECA at the meeting.

The main topics covered included:

- Formal and informal platforms for active participation at the local level
- What is the primary relationship/interface with implementers and regulators
- Capacity building to ensure informed participation and decision-making
- Planning and delivering communication and public involvement activities
- Building and sustaining confidence (including what inspires confidence in the decisions taken)

Most significantly, the question from each country focused on *how best to involve local communities* and not whether local governments should be involved. Each country brought its own experiences and one of the interesting issues is how many countries are – like the United States - struggling with how to open a permanent geologic (and even interim) storage facilities for radioactive waste. Almost all countries that had been through years of trying to site a permanent facility failed due to local support. Recently, in the United Kingdom a report [*Geological Disposal – Overview of International Siting Processes 2017*](#) which identifies international efforts in this area.

The participants also discussed public education, role of all levels of governments, company operators, regulators, independent experts, local and



IAEA List of Participating Countries

Argentina	Kazakhstan
Australia	Pakistan
Brazil	Philippines
Canada	Romania
China	Russian Federation
France	Slovakia
Germany	Switzerland
Hungary	Ukraine
India	United Arab Emirates
Indonesia	United Kingdom

national organizations focused on nuclear and radioactive waste issues, role of the scientists and engineers, and indigenous people and governments, building capacity of local communities to be able to participate, role of economic development for communities, protection of health and the environment, role of regional areas, importance of transportation education and engagement and other issues. Almost all participants stressed the difference between success and failure can be how the implementer of the project engaged with the local community. Several Mayors and regulators identified the need for all parties that are involved in these projects to create a real relationship to be able to discuss both the good and the bad news on a

(Continued on page 4)

OAK RIDGE AT ODDS WITH NNSA OVER Y-12 ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION PROJECT

In a December 11 letter to the City of Oak Ridge, TN, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has agreed to a 45-day discussion period during which a project to build an electrical substation for the Y-12 National Security Complex will be delayed.

The Y-12 electrical substation project includes plans to clear cut 2.1 miles of mature trees and vegetation along the crest of Pine Ridge and install more than thirty 79-foot Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) transmission towers atop the ridge.

A December 4 City [press release](#) notes that Pine Ridge plays “a vital safety role in separating the industrial Y-12 National Security Complex from residential and business areas. The proposed project encroaches on this natural barrier.”

A November 14 letter from Oak Ridge Mayor Gooch to Dale Christenson, Federal Project Director for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) Project Office, argues that the project will “permanently alter the fabric of our community. [Pine Ridge] represents one of the most attractive features for residents and visitors to our City.”

The substation project has been under development by DOE since December 2015, though the City was not notified about NNSA’s plans until early November 2017.

“The City of Oak Ridge has been a supportive partner in the development of the UPF project on many fronts. This action shows disregard and a lack of attention to the planned directions of this community and its 30,000 citizens,” Gooch stated. “Public engagement is essential for the many demands placed on the Oak Ridge community and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The lack of engagement observed thus far is certainly counter to the principles of



View of Pine Ridge from Scarborough Community Center (City of Oak Ridge)

intergovernmental cooperation that DOE continues to espouse.”

During a special December 8 City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved a motion to request a 30-day delay of clearcutting for the installation of transmission towers and lines on Pine Ridge. The Council also authorized the City Manager and City Attorney to review legal options and engage outside counsel, if necessary, regarding the substation project, and approved a motion to request that the City become a cooperating agency in all DOE NEPA actions within City limits.

NNSA responded to the City’s request for a 30-day delay of clearcutting in a December 11 letter from Christenson. “We are prepared to discuss with the City how we can improve our communications on this project. [...] Given the holiday season, we are prepared to extend this discussion period to 45 days. During this time NNSA will take no action that commits it to any particular approach to the siting of this transmission line.

“This postponement will allow the City and DOE to have a more meaningful dialogue about this segment of the project’s impact on the community, both short and long term,” reads a December 12 City [press release](#).



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.

(Continued from page 2)

ECA Participates in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



project and to ensure that an open and honest line of communication is open between the parties.

For capacity building common themes emerged such as:

- Need to build capacity at the local level at an early stage – by having the expertise local governments can participate in real discussions about the issues.
- Resources ensure that parties can participate in the discussions and understand the issues.
- Understand that these are long-term activities and need to continually inform and build the information and the community needs to be educated (and educate themselves).
- Give communities access to information and education (including 101 courses) opportunities.

- Local governments can help to resolve issues
- Educate students on issues to build capacity and knowledge in the community - as they live in the community.
- Peers talking to peers is helpful (local government to local government); and
- Local governments need to be (and be considered by all parties) an equal party with the Regulator and the Government/implementer in discussions.

Several countries have just begun a new process for siting a permanent facility (including the United Kingdom, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, and Canada). In many of the processes, the local governments/communities will be self-selecting and the engineering, science and “community” acceptance will be critical. ECA collected presentations from the various participants and recommends that anyone considering hosting such a facility review the presentations.

As we do in ECA meetings, defining the “community” and “acceptance” was an important topic. ECA, as did other participants, focused on its experiences in focusing on success, how the community can accomplish its goals, the importance of resources for the community to build expertise and trust, and how the need for continual engagement and education are key issues.

The IAEA is developing a report and considering additional meetings on the topic moving forward. The US Department of Energy nominated ECA to participate in the meeting with IAEA. For more information, please contact Seth Kirshenberg at sethk@energyca.org.



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](#).



NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 2018

Save the Date

2018 National Cleanup Workshop

September 11-13, 2018 | Alexandria, VA

The National Cleanup Workshop will bring together senior DOE executives and site officials, industry executives, national and local elected officials, and other stakeholders to discuss DOE's progress on the cleanup of the environmental legacy of the nation's Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons program.

For more information, go to www.cleanupworkshop.com.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact Robin Frei at rfrei@la-inc.com or 301-233-3892.

Join us at WM2018,

the 44th annual Waste Management Symposia, to participate in a forum for discussing and seeking safe and cost effective solutions to the management and disposition of radioactive wastes and the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. The WM2018 conference will explore the theme Nuclear and Industrial Robotics, Remote Systems and Emerging Technologies which will feature the development and application of robotics and sensing to overcome radioactive waste management challenges.



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(Continued from page 1)

Legislative Update

provision that would have allowed new nuclear plants such as the Vogtle project in Georgia and small modular reactor developers to qualify for a tax break by extending the expiration date past its original 2020 deadline for plants to begin operating. The language was axed from the final tax bill.

Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) told the [Washington Examiner](#), “I am committed to doing whatever I can to ensure that the Plant Vogtle project stays on track for completion to strengthen America’s energy security [...] we are working on a path forward to get a nuclear tax credit extension passed this year or early next year.”

FY2018 Appropriations—Another CR

Congress averted a government shutdown ahead of the holiday season when it passed a stopgap spending bill to fund the government at current levels through January 19, 2018. The measure passed the House 231-188 and cleared the Senate 66-32 on December 21.

This is the third continuing resolution (CR) of the year (we average four per year). Previously in September, Congress passed a CR extending funding levels through December 8. On December 7, Congress passed a second CR that went until December 22. When Congress returns to DC after the New Year, they will have 11 days in session to pass a FY2018 appropriations bill (or another CR).

National Defense Authorization Act

On December 12, President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 ([H.R. 2810](#)) into law. The Senate

passed the final conferenced version of the NDAA on November 16. 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).

The final NDAA bill authorized a total of nearly \$700 billion, comprised of \$634.2 billion in base defense spending and \$65.7 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds. The bill authorized \$20.5 billion in total discretionary funding for Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, an increase of around \$72.3 million above the President’s budget request. Of that total discretionary funding amount, the NDAA authorized \$14 billion for NNSA. The President’s budget request contained \$13.9 billion for NNSA. For defense environmental cleanup, the bill authorized \$5.4 billion. The NDAA exceeds the \$549 billion budget cap for base defense spending in the Budget Control Act. Congress is now pressured to either raise or eliminate the budget caps on the defense budget. If Congress does not raise the budget caps, sequestration would be triggered, meaning the defense budget would face an across-the-board cut.

The bill included several key provisions related to nuclear pit production location analysis of costs, mox, and other issues.

DOE Appointees

Before adjourning on December 21, the Senate confirmed over two-dozen of the Administration’s nominees. This included several of President Trump’s nominees for DOE positions, most notably: John Vonglis to be DOE’s chief financial officer.

FY 2018 Appropriations Highlights*

(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 Request	FY2018 House Bill (H.R. 3354)	FY2018 Senate Bill (S. 1609)
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	30,746,009	28,041,597	29,888,401	31,463,626
Environmental Management	6,420,000	6,508,335	6,395,400	6,633,968
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
Legacy Management	154,320	154,606	154,606	154,606
National Nuclear Security Administration	12,938,252	13,931,000	13,914,400	13,685,032
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
Nuclear Energy	1,016,616	703,000	969,000	917,020
Yucca Mountain and Interim Storage	---	120,000	120,000	---
Nuclear Waste Disposal	---	90,000	90,000	---
Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal	---	30,000	30,000	---
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES				
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	112,505	138,000	161,612	108,525
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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DOE Announces Department-Wide Reorganization

with execution of primary mission within the department. To the extent we can increase efficiency by moving these functions to the deputy secretary, it allows people to focus on the jobs they were hired to do,” Brouillette said.

The Under Secretary of Energy will focus on energy policy, applied energy technologies, energy security

and reliability, and certain DOE-wide management functions, while the Under Secretary for Science will focus on supporting innovation, basic scientific research, and environmental cleanup (EM and LM will be in this office).

All responsibilities for the nation’s nuclear stockpile remain the same—under the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator position. An organizational chart of DOE’s new structure can be found on page 17.

2017 INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING WITH DOE WRAP-UP

From November 15-17, ECA members joined the National Governors Association, the State and Tribal Government Working Group, the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the Environmental Council of the States for the 15th-annual Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE.

The meeting, as in years past, provided opportunities for all parties and stakeholders affected by the ongoing cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex to communicate with key DOE officials at the headquarters and site levels.

Topics discussed during the meeting included near- and long-term cleanup priorities of the DOE administration and intergovernmental groups; long term stewardship and legacy management; social media, communications, and site emergency response; updates on DOE waste management policy; managing infrastructure and excess facilities; and updates on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

A defining feature of this year’s Intergovernmental Meeting was the addition of breakout sessions. Meeting participants were divided up by site into eight different groups. Each group’s discussions were moderated by intergovernmental groups’ staff and consisted of DOE site managers, state regulators, local elected officials, tribal representatives, and other stakeholders. The breakout sessions were not

intended as an opportunity to find consensus, but to provide a forum to discuss common cleanup priorities, successes, challenges, and lessons learned among the different stakeholders. Many ECA members remarked that the breakout sessions were productive and served as a helpful starting point for future discussions with DOE and other stakeholder groups.

Many ECA members presented at the Intergovernmental Meeting. Rick McLeod, President/CEO of the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization; David Reeploeg, Vice President of the Tri-Cities Development Council; Mark Watson, City Manager of Oak Ridge, Ron Woody, Roane County Executive, Seth Kirshenber, Executive Director, ECA, Mayor Steve Young, Kennewick, WA and Kara Colton, Director of Nuclear Energy Policies at ECA all participated in a panel discussion on facilitating waste disposal to move cleanup forward. The session focused on alternative approaches to waste management such as the proposed revisions to DOE’s Order 435.1. Panel participants also discussed ECA’s recent [report](#) on waste disposition.

Mark Watson, City Manager for Oak Ridge, TN participated on a panel about strategies for managing Infrastructure and excess facilities. He

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2017 Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE Wrap-Up

spoke about the unique challenges faced by the City of Oak Ridge and the surrounding area with respect to aging infrastructure. Seth Kirshenberg, Executive Director of ECA spoke on the final day of the meeting, offering a bird's eye perspective on Energy and Water Appropriations, the National Defense Authorization Act, DOE/NNSA contracting processes, and other policy issues affecting DOE and NNSA.

Also at the Intergovernmental Meeting, ECA held a meeting of the Board of Directors, where members discussed ongoing ECA initiatives and member site priorities. During the meeting, the Board also elected a new Executive Board (see page 11). Members also heard from then-Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jim Owendoff, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs Mark Gilbertson, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs Douglas Little.



ECA members participating in a discussion with Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jim Owendoff. From left to right: Pam Larsen, David Reeploeg, Seth Kirshenberg, Jim Owendoff, Jennifer Chandler.



ECA members participating in a panel discussion on DOE waste disposal. From left to right: Kara Colton, Betsy Forinash, David Reeploeg, and Rick McLeod.

MAJOR CONTRACTS AND AWARDS

DOE Awards New Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract

On December 19, DOE [announced](#) the award of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) legacy cleanup contract to Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC. The total value of the contract is \$1,390,086,635. The contract includes a 90-day Contract Transition Period, a Base Period of five years, an Option Period 1 for three years, an Option Period 2 for two years, for a total period of performance of up to ten years and three months. The current EM contract at LANL is held by Los Alamos National Security, LLC, and expires on March 31, 2018.

The objectives of the contract include the following:

- Protect, characterize, and monitor the regional aquifer;

- Clean up contaminated media and contaminated legacy waste sites at LANL and surrounding Private - and Government-owned lands (formerly LANL)
- Decontamination and decommissioning and demolish inactive, process-contaminated, and non-contaminated facilities that impede the timely execution of environmental restoration activities;
- Retrieve, characterize, prepare and ship off-site legacy mixed-low level radioactive waste and transuranic waste; and
- Clean up sites and return to the landlord organization (NNSA) for long-term surveillance and monitoring as needed, in order to provide necessary safeguards and protection of workers, the public, and the environment, or to subsequently transfer to the County of Los Alamos.

DOE Releases Draft RFP for Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract

On November 21, DOE [released](#) a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract (HMESC) with an estimated value of up to \$4 billion over ten years. Mission Support Alliance currently holds the contract, which expires on May 25, 2019. The week of December 11, 2017, DOE conducted a pre-solicitation conference by holding a site tour and one-on-one meetings with interested parties. The services to be provided by the contractor include, but are not limited to, security and emergency services, land management, information technology services, and management of the Hazardous Material Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) training facility.

DOE approves Battelle-INL management extension

On December 8, DOE [approved](#) a five-year extension of Battelle Energy Alliance's (BEA) management contract at Idaho National Laboratory. The extension is contingent upon successful negotiation of applicable terms and conditions between DOE and BEA. BEA was originally awarded the contract in 2004. DOE exercised a five-year option in 2014, which extended the contract through September 30, 2019. The new terms will extend BEA's contract through September 30, 2024.

DOE Announces \$30 Million Investment in Advanced Nuclear Technology

On December 7, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry [announced](#) a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to support development of advanced nuclear energy technology. DOE is soliciting proposals for cost-shared projects to develop innovative, industry-driven reactor designs and accompanying technologies with high potential to advance nuclear power in the US. DOE expects to make up to \$30 million or more available in FY 2018 awards, subject to the availability of funding. The FOA will be open for a five-year period accepting application on a year-round basis, with a quarterly selection process. The FOA is available at www.grants.gov under reference number DE-FOA-0001817. Initial applications are due January 31, 2018.

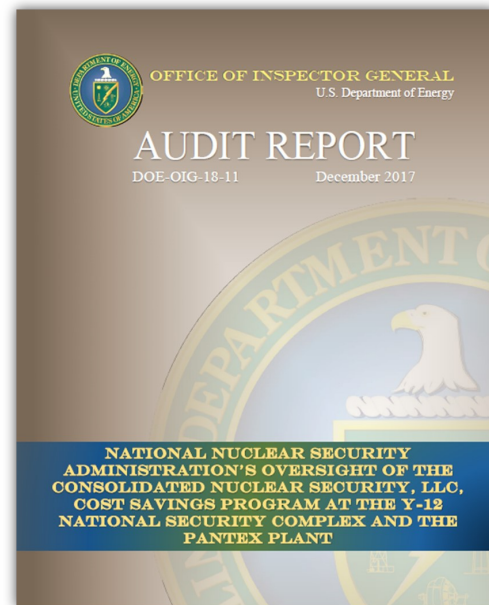
ARPA-E Announces \$100 Million Open Solicitation for Transformative Energy Projects

On December 13, DOE [announced](#) up to \$100 million in funding for new projects as part of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy's (ARPA-E) OPEN 2018 funding opportunity. OPEN 2018 will support innovators through dozens of early-stage research and development projects as they build technologies to transform the nation's energy system. ARPA-E has issued previous OPEN solicitations in 2009, 2012, and 2015. The deadline to submit a concept paper for OPEN 2018 is February 12, 2018 at 5:00pm E.T. For additional information on the OPEN funding opportunity, visit [here](#).

DOE INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT REPORTS

NNSA's Oversight of the Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC, Cost Savings Program at the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Pantex Plant

On December 13, the DOE Inspector General released an [audit report](#) reviewing the Cost Savings Program under the Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) Management & Operating contract for the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN and the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, TX. The audit found that the NNSA was actively engaged in overseeing the implementation of the Cost Savings Program under the CNS contract. NNSA expressed concerns regarding the overall credibility and integrity of the program as early as September 2015. NNSA cited delays in reviewing an acceptable Merger and Transformation Plan, cost reduction proposals, and baselines; delays in implementing a single financial management system for both sites; and a failure to track all costs associated with executing the Cost Savings Program as problematic. NNSA stated that these issues may not appear disconcerting individually, but taken as a whole, threaten to erode requirements of the contract and place the Cost Savings Program at risk.



Introducing ECA's New Executive Board

The new Executive Board was voted-in at the annual ECA Board Meeting, November 15, 2017



Ron Woody, Secretary
County Executive, Roane County, TN



Steve Young, Vice-Chair
Mayor, Kennewick, WA



Dick Doss, Secretary
Councilmember, Carlsbad, NM



Rick Reiss, Treasurer
Councilor, Los Alamos, NM



Rebecca Casper, Member-At-Large
Mayor, Idaho Falls, ID



Chuck Smith, Past-Chair
Councilmember, Aiken County, SC



GAO REPORTS

Observations on DOE and Army Corps Assessments of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Contract

On November 15, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a [report](#) assessing separate reports published by DOE and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility and the ability to convert the facility from a cost-reimbursable to a fixed-price type contract. In their report, GAO found that converting the contract type is not certain to reduce total government costs. Further, the process of converting the contract to a fixed-price incentive firm contract could present uncertainty about the costs of the project.

In addition, NNSA officials interviewed by GAO said they do not expect that converting the MOX facility contract would significantly alter the life-cycle cost for the Plutonium Disposition Program.

In their report, GAO also found the following:

- **Estimates of time to convert to a fixed-price incentive firm line item.** The Corps estimated that converting the contract would take 31 to 43 months. This estimate reflects the disagreement between NNSA and the MOX facility contractor on the amount of work completed and the time needed to agree on a design and schedule for the MOX facility.
- **Estimates of percentage of work completed.** Based DOE's 2016 construction cost estimate, construction of the MOX facility is about 30% complete. However, the facility contractor estimated that about 74% of work had been completed based on its 2012 estimate of construction costs. GAO found that the key

difference between DOE's estimate and the contractor's is the total estimated budget for the project used in the calculations.

NNSA Needs to Determine Critical Skills and Competencies for Its Strategic Materials Programs

On November 14, GAO published a [report](#) reviewing the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) management of its strategic materials programs. The report examines 1) the extent to which NNSA has, for these programs, defined requirements, including program manager roles and responsibilities; and 2) the progress of NNSA's implementation of those program requirements.

NNSA has set program requirements that each of the materials programs for uranium, plutonium, tritium, and lithium, must follow and has established the roles and responsibilities of the program managers. NNSA officials reported that the agency is making progress implementing the requirements outlined for each of the strategic materials programs, though some of the programs are farther along than others.

According to NNSA officials, shortage of staff assigned to the strategic materials programs has been the primary reason hampering progress in implementing the program requirements. GAO also found that NNSA has not determined the critical skills and competencies needed for these programs. By determining the critical skills and competencies needed for the strategic materials programs and using this determination to develop strategies to address any gaps in the number, deployment, and alignment of program staff, NNSA may have the information it needs to better justify increased staffing levels for the programs.

DOE SUBMITS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVES FOR DISPOSAL OF GTCC AND GTTC-LIKE WASTE

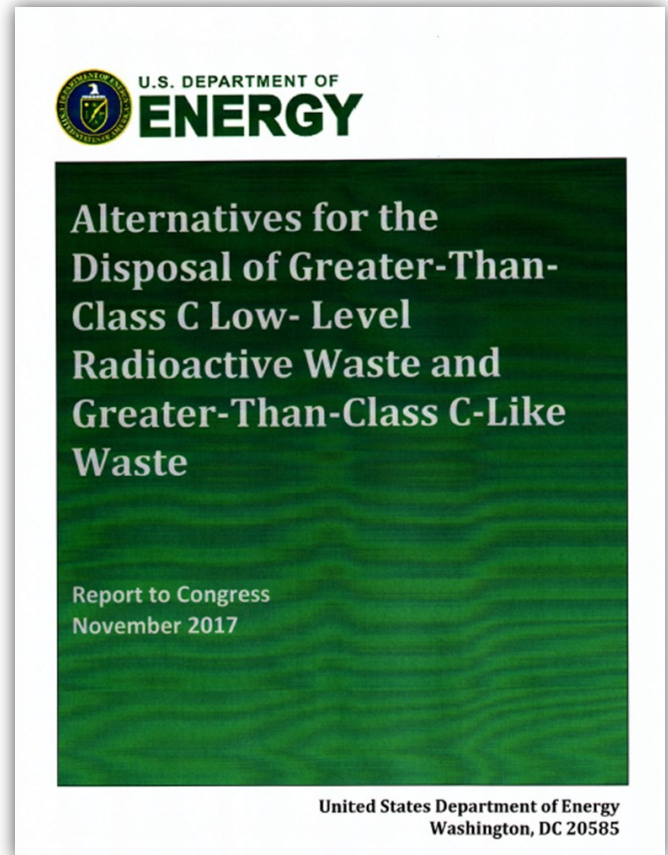
In November, DOE formally submitted its report to Congress, [*“Alternatives for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Greater-than-Class C-Like Waste,”*](#) as required under the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#). The report confirms land disposal at generic commercial facilities and/or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico as its preferred alternative for disposal.

DOE is required to submit this report to Congress on disposal alternatives for Greater-Than-Class C (GTTC) and GTCC-like low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) prior to issuing a Record of Decision (ROD). The report includes an evaluation of “the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development, operation, and long-term management of a disposal facility or facilities for GTTC LLRW and GTCC-like waste in DOE’s inventory.”

In addition, DOE identifies legislation and regulatory actions that would be required to implement the final alternative. For example, if disposal at WIPP is the final decision, the Land Withdrawal Act will need to be amended to remove the prohibition of non-defense waste disposal at the facility. DOE also notes that a project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation may be required before implementation.

GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste includes:

- Activated metals from the decommissioning of nuclear utilities;
- Sealed sources used for diagnostics and treatment of cancer and other illnesses and other industrial uses; and
- Other wastes, which include waste from the production of molybdenum-99 (used in medical diagnostics); waste from radioisotope power systems (used in support of space exploration); and waste from environmental cleanup at DOE



sites (e.g. West Valley Demonstration Project in New York).

There is currently no identified path to disposal for GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like wastes. Following the submission of the report, DOE must now await action by Congress.

Efforts to define the federal government’s strategy to dispose of GTCC LLRW began in 1985 after Congress passed the [Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act](#). In February 2016, DOE issued its [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) outlining the preferred alternative above, but the EIS did not constitute a decision.

RCLC: OP-ED ON UPCOMING LANL M&O CONTRACT

By: RCLC Executive Director Andrea Romero and RCLC Administrative Manager Scarlet Rendleman. Originally published by the [Los Alamos Daily Post](#) on December 13, 2017

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) persists as the largest job supplier in Northern New Mexico, generating the greatest economic impact throughout the region.

The Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC), has been closely following the process and progress on naming the next LANL manager and operator (M&O), overseeing 10-12,000 jobs and a plethora of duties to the National Nuclear Security Administration and Department of Energy.

The NNSA is just 10-months away from a new Prime Contractor taking over the responsibility of the management and operations of LANL on Oct. 1, 2018.

While safety and security of all employees and contractors is, and should be, the highest priority to the oncoming Contractor, the RCLC monitors and engages in LANL efforts beyond daily activities, looking closely at its overall impact on our communities, especially in areas of economic and environmental impact. Northern New Mexico is heavily economically and politically dependent upon the Laboratory's success. The current structure of LANL's M&O Contract provides healthy tax contributions to State and local communities and superb philanthropic investments that show positive effects throughout our region. The RCLC views these two issues among the highest priorities for the NNM region.

The choice of the right LANL Contractor is palpable for NNM. The RCLC has been working to preserve gross receipts tax (GRT) from both Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, providing over \$200 million in revenues while NM suffers a deficit. The current law on the books would prevent the State from being able to collect

on those funds should a non-profit entity apply and be selected for the next M&O Contract. The RCLC is working diligently at the NM Legislature to ensure this taxation law can be changed to preserve the revenues to the State and local communities from Lab operators.

Moreover, moving beyond technical capacity, the next Contractor should be focused on community commitment. The communities surrounding LANL are indeed the primary customer to safety and environmental protection, and benefit through the existence of the Lab. With the myriad needs of Northern New Mexico,

LANL can continue to have a meaningful impact by amplifying economic development, educational and workforce opportunities, and community giving through a strong Community Commitment Plan (CCP). The RCLC leadership wants to enact a vetted plan that includes interests of all NNM communities and stakeholders.

We ask that the next Prime Contractor commit a minimum \$3 million per year to ensure these formerly established and essential programs continue to thrive, with a collaborative mindset, engaging communities to envision the future of our region. Given the NNSA has mandated the M&O to provide a measurable community commitment goal, the RCLC and regional stakeholders are developing a Community Commitment Plan rooted in tackling NNM's fundamental goals and interests. The Coalition requests the oncoming Prime Contractor to discuss the potential adoption of our CCP to ensure the overall success of the Contractor's tenure at LANL.

The achievements of Los Alamos National Laboratory add a tremendous economic, social, and educational value throughout the region. We call on the next M&O Contractor to work directly with RCLC and other community leadership to ensure



Andrea Romero



Scarlet Rendleman

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the integrity, quality, and efficacy of community commitment continues without interruption, and that ample investment is made to advance the efforts developed in this past decade. In the collective interest of the region, NNM communities look forward to partnering in the work of the oncoming Prime Contractor to help achieve its management, operations, and community commitment goals in the best way possible.

About the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities (RCLC): For six years, the RCLC has strongly advocated on behalf of the growth and maintenance of a talented workforce pipeline to ensure LANL operations support regional economic stability and development. The Coalition has set goals and priorities for community commitment to be upheld by the DOE with regards to the next Managing & Operating (M&O) Contract at LANL. As host communities to LANL's mission, Northern New Mexico endures a number of challenges,

including the potential stagnation of our populations and perhaps even lost additional business opportunities due to LANL's mission. Our collective voice advocates on behalf of the best possible outcomes due to LANL's activities, particularly those in environmental cleanup, economic development, increased educational opportunities, and advocacy of such.

The 2017 Board of Directors includes Chair, Mayor Javier Gonzales, City of Santa Fe; Vice-Chair, Commissioner Barney Trujillo, Rio Arriba County; Treasurer, Commissioner Henry Roybal, Santa Fe County; Secretary, Councilor Chris Chandler, Los Alamos County; Mayor Alice Lucero, City of Española; Councilor Darien Fernández, Town of Taos; Commissioner Mark Gallegos, Taos County; Representative Ron Lovato, Ohkay Owingeh; and Lt. Governor Ward Yeppa, Pueblo of Jemez.

To access the RCLC and regional stakeholder Community Commitment Plan, visit [here](#). Follow the RCLC on Twitter and visit RegionalCoalition.org for updates on quarterly meetings as well as environmental cleanup and regional economic development efforts related to LANL.

DOE REQUESTING RECALCULATION OF WIPP EMPLACEMENT VOLUMES

According to a *Current-Argus* [article](#) published December 15, DOE is seeking to modify the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) permit with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED). DOE is requesting that WIPP's volume of record for the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) be based on the volume of the inner waste container, closer to volume of the waste itself, rather than the current method which counts the outer container's total volume.

This modification could significantly alter the capacity count of the facility. Currently, WIPP is at more than half capacity, but barring a change in the volume of record for the WIPP LWA, the facility would only be about a third full. WIPP's maximum capacity is 175,565 cubic meters of waste allowed by the permit; WIPP currently contains 92,000 cubic meters under the contested method of calculation. If DOE's proposal to base the volume of record based on the volume of the inner waste container, WIPP would only be presently holding about 65,000 cubic meters. This distinction could therefore extend the life of WIPP, bringing it closer to DOE's goal of keeping the facility operational through 2050.

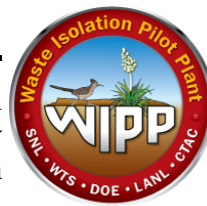
WIPP spokesman Bill Taylor stated that the adjustment would allow more accurate tracker of how much waste is underground.

"This change will allow DOE to better track the volume of water authorized by Congress for disposal at WIPP," he said. "Using the outer containers to calculate the volume means that some air is being counted as waste."

John Heaton, ECA member and chair of the Carlsbad Mayor's Nuclear Task Force, said that officials at WIPP have long expressed concerns that the amount of waste counted as emplaced far exceeded the amount that was disposed of.

"Assumptions have been made about how to count the waste," Heaton said. "The LWA is very clear that air is not waste. But they're counting a lot of air. [This] extends the life of WIPP extensively. The whole point is to quit counting the air, and just count the drums themselves."

NMED will rule on the proposal in the coming months.



DOE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW MERCURY TREATMENT FACILITY

On November 20, DOE broke ground on a new Mercury Treatment Facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex. According to an EM [release](#), the treatment facility, a vital project for DOE's Environmental Management program, will enable the demolition and cleanup of large, deteriorated mercury-contaminated facilities dating back to the 1940s and help reduce mercury levels in the East Fork Poplar Creek.

"This project paves the way for critical infrastructure that will enable our program to begin major demolition at Y-12," said Jay Mullins, manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management. "We are incredibly grateful for the support we've received from our elected officials, and we are eager to get work underway to advance environmental cleanup at one of the nation's most important national security sites."

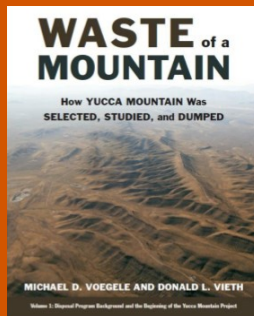
Y-12 was initially construction during the Manhattan Project to explore uranium enrichment. During the Cold War, the site began lithium separation for nuclear weapon production—this process required large amounts of mercury. DOE estimates approximately 700,000 pounds of mercury were released during that time into the equipment, buildings, and surrounding soils.



GEM Tech President Michael Evans, UCOR President Ken Rueter, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette, Senator Lamar Alexander, TN Deputy Governor Jim Henry, OREM Manager Jay Mullins, & Principal Deputy Asst Sec for EM Jim Owendoff

The new facility will consist of two components: a headworks facility and a treatment plant. The headworks facility will capture water from the creek flow on the west end of Y-12 and pump water through a pipeline to the treatment plant. When operational, the facility will treat up to 3,000 gallons of water per minute.

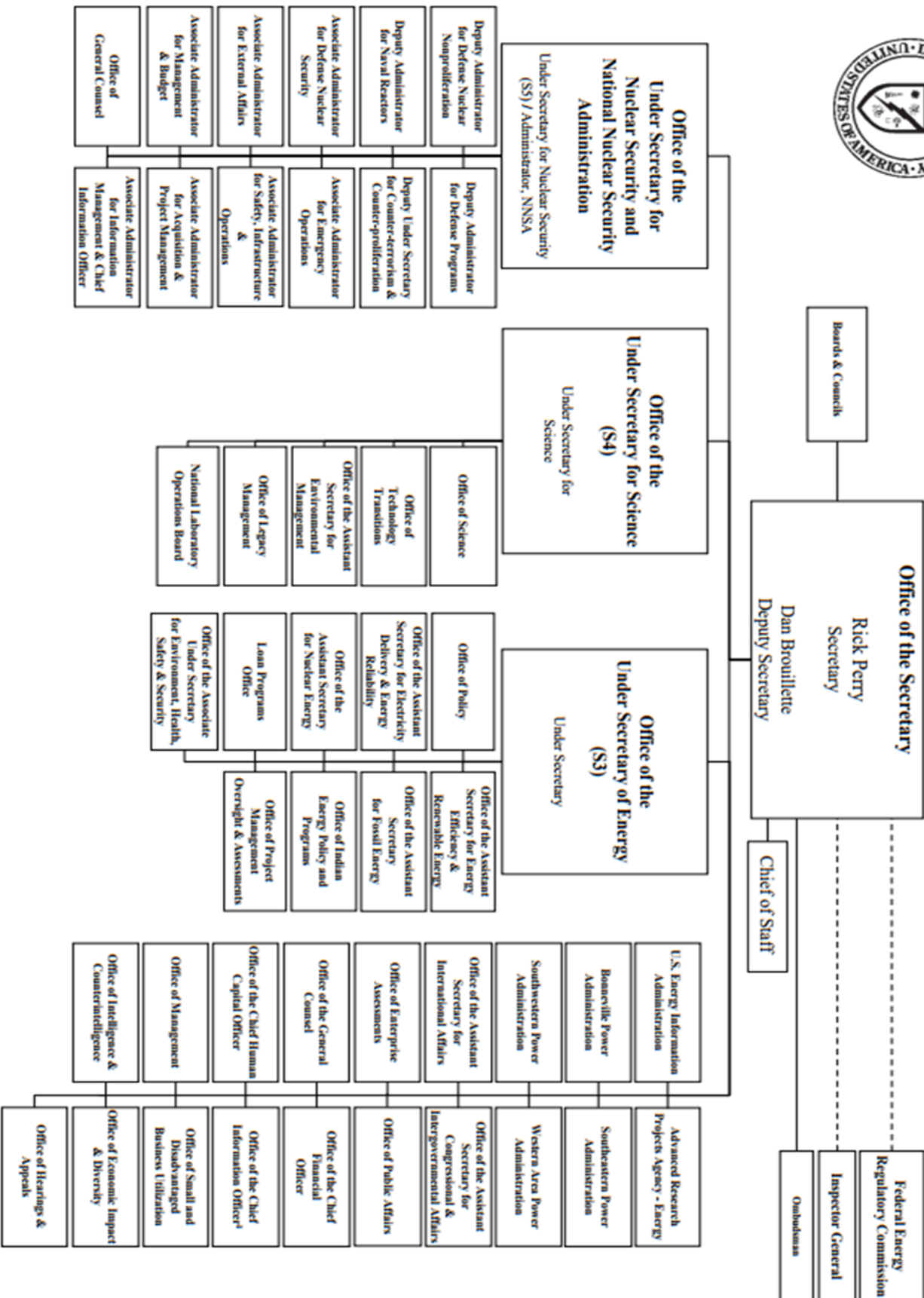
DOE anticipates the facility will begin operations by 2022.



Yucca Mountain proponents and opponents are preparing for a fresh fight in the 115th 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](#).



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY





2018 Congressional Calendar



Both chambers in session
Senate only in session

January

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MLK Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 State of the Union	31			

February

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Good Fri. Passover (begins)	31

April

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Easter Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Orthodox Easter	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Ramadan (begins)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29 Vesak	30	31		

June

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Eid al-Fitr	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Eid al-Adha	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Rosh Hashana (begins)	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Yom Kippur (begins)	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 FY '19 (begins)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7 Diwali	8	9	10
11	12 Veterans' Day (observed)	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Hanukkah (begins)	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
30	31					



2017-2018 Upcoming Events

January 16-17	ECA Peer Exchange: Defense Nuclear Waste Disposition , Las Vegas, NV; contact meganc@energyca.org with questions.
January 19	Third Continuing Resolution Ends.
Late February/ March	White House to release FY 2019 Budget Request (<i>likely</i>)
March 18-22	2018 Waste Management Symposia , Phoenix, AZ; visit www.wmsym.org for more information.
April 11-12	ECA Annual Conference , Washington, DC; contact meganc@energyca.org with questions.
September 11-13	2018 National Cleanup Workshop , Alexandria, VA; visit www.cleanupworkshop.com for more information.

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