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ECA PUBLISHES PAPER: MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS ON DOE'S PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL WASTE INTERPRETATION

In October 2018, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed a new interpretation of the statutory definition of high-level waste (HLW). This new interpretation could speed up cleanup at several sites (Idaho National Laboratory, Hanford, West Valley and the Savannah River Site); develop a path forward for waste stranded in interim storage and tanks; and potentially save tens of billions of dollars.

ECA's new paper, "*Making Informed Decisions on DOE's Proposed High-Level Waste Definition – Guide for Communities*

and Recommendations for DOE," is developed as a guide for communities to understand the DOE proposal and to make recommendations for DOE to move the proposal forward. The paper aims to provide local communities information needed to enable informed decisions and constructive input to the Department as it determines next steps and implementation.

"ECA wants to see DOE move waste out of our communities and dispose it in licensed facilities as

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WIPP CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

In March the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) celebrated its 20th anniversary as the nation's first underground repository for nuclear waste. Located southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, WIPP was first authorized by Congress in 1979, and its first shipment of transuranic (TRU) waste was received in 1999. WIPP has been one of the critical facilities in the country to facilitate cleanup across the complex.

Construction on WIPP began in 1981. Since that time, WIPP has accepted over 12,000 shipments of waste from more than 20 sites, and more than 170,000 containers have been emplaced underground. More than 1,100 people are employed at WIPP.



CBFO Manager Todd Shrader, center, right, and NWP President and Project Manager Bruce Covert hold a proclamation from Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, left of Covert, declaring March 26-April 26 as WIPP Appreciation Month

Highlighting the important role WIPP plays in the cleanup of the DOE complex, John Heaton, ECA member and Chairman of the Carlsbad Nuclear Task Force, wrote

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ECA Publishes Paper: Making Informed Decisions on DOE’s Proposed High-Level Waste Interpretation

safely, efficiently and cost-effectively as possible,” explains ECA Chairman and Roane County Executive, Ron Woody. “After more than thirty years of operations, DOE is taking an important review of its waste management strategies, looking to apply lessons learned. ECA members believe DOE’s proposed HLW interpretation is one such alternative that should be considered.”

In an effort to maintain momentum as DOE evaluates input received during its Public Comment period, ECA’s new paper outlines 12 key recommendations for DOE. These recommendations echo ECA’s earlier report released in September 2017, “Waste Disposition: A New Approach to DOE’s Waste Management Must Be Pursued,” also written to assist ECA members, their communities and other impacted stakeholders to better engage with DOE on technical, alternative waste management strategies. In its latest paper, ECA highlights the need for a formal stakeholder engagement process, outlining “The Path to Progress,” as an example for consideration.

ECA Recommendations to DOE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a full evaluation of DOE’s proposed interpretation to define the specific waste that will be affected at each site. • Clearly identify each disposal pathway and what needs to occur at potential disposal sites for shipments to begin. • Identify the process and the timing of any new potential shipments. • Pursue active and transparent engagement of all affected communities and stakeholders. • Determine the realistic cost savings and revised timeline for cleanup. • Provide the States and local governments with resources to analyze the change and educate the communities. • Consider legislation to codify the proposed HLW definition to ensure consistency over time and maintain focus on cleanup versus litigation. • Revise the DOE radioactive waste management policy and manual (DOE Order 435.1) to clarify that waste will be managed and dispositioned according to its characteristics, not its origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with the State of New Mexico on a permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to remove the blanket prohibition on tank waste and wastes managed as HLW. • Consider legislation to amend the Land Withdrawal Act, which governs WIPP, to expand the volume of TRU waste (in particular Remote Handled TRU) to accommodate projected inventory and capacity. • Ensure communities can provide input into the Administration’s implementation of its “End States Contracting Strategy,” particularly in regard to DOE’s plans to implement any updated or revised approaches to waste management and disposal. • Continue to identify well-scoped pilot projects and waste management policy evaluations.

Legislative Update

THE YEAR AHEAD

As we enter May the legislative process is moving ahead. The President's budget request was released in March, some hearings have been held on the Department of Energy's (DOE) budget and the defense authorization and appropriations processes are beginning in both the House and Senate.

Meanwhile DOE has begun to implement its new contracting process at several sites (called "End States") contracting. Further, internally DOE is attempting to figure out how to implement the new interpretation of the categorization of certain waste that are now listed as high-level waste (but may be transuranic waste or low-level waste). Further, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is saying to the communities it will build plutonium pits at one or two sites (the issue may be cost), deciding how to implement the "dilute and dispose" process (due to NNSA cancelling the MOX project in SC), and whether to invest in new infrastructure or to continue with 75 year old facilities supporting the critical mission. At the Office of Legacy Management (LM), the budget request includes it taking on a new mission (Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program – currently being operated unsuccessfully by the Army Corps of Engineers – who took it over from the Office of Environmental Management who also was unsuccessful (in the 90s) with the projects). Further, the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) is attempting to implement the first of kind small modular reactor commercialization (many of ECA communities are purchasers and supporters of the program).

At the same time – two communities are attempting to work with NNSA and EM to design and construct new facilities that support the missions at the sites that will be operated by the communities or their private contractors, two communities have large concerns about the safety of the landfills that DOE is attempting to build in their communities, two communities are trying to expand disposal options at their sites, and all are trying to work on seeing cleanup move forward at

their sites. Further, the Manhattan Project Historical Park is still being implemented with LM in Oak Ridge, Los Alamos and Hanford. Communities remain concerned about the DOE Order on working with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) – still something that needs to be corrected.

In the coming months, in both Congress and the Administration, we may have some large decisions made. Remember this year, fiscal year 2019 (FY 19), is the largest budget for NNSA, EM, LM and NE in many years.

Below is a summary of many of the issues:

DOE Releases FY 2020 Budget Request Justification

The President's fiscal year (FY) 2020 high-level Department of Energy (DOE) [budget request](#) is less than current funding for environmental cleanup, nuclear energy, and science; increases defense spending; and provides funding for nuclear waste storage and to reintroduce a legacy cleanup program.

In total, the FY 2020 budget request for DOE is \$31.7 billion, or almost \$4 billion less than FY 2019 enacted levels. Most DOE offices (in the request) saw proposed cuts to their program budgets, with the notable exception being the NNSA and EM defense line items. In general, the cuts were expected after President Trump [announced](#) last October that he would be seeking a 5% budget decrease for all non-defense discretionary spending as part of an effort to "balance the budget."

At least one community around the Savannah River site has raised concerns that PILT may not have been included in the budget request.

On March 11, the White House released [A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First.](#), which outlines the Administration's policy agenda and top-line numbers for federal agencies

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Department of Energy Budget & Appropriations Highlights*

(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 Request	FY 2020 Request vs FY 2019 Enacted	
			\$	%
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	35,685,317	31,702,5298	-3,894,788	-10.9%
Environmental Management	7,175,129	6,469,093	-706,036	-9.8%
Defense Environmental Cleanup	6,024,000	5,506,501	-517,499	-8.6%
Hanford/ Richland	865,171	628,820	-236,351	-27.3%
Office of River Protection	1,573,000	1,392,460	-180,540	-11.5%
Idaho National Laboratory	433,200	334,854	-98,346	-22.7%
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,704	1,727	+23	+1.3%
Separations Process Research Unit	15,000	15,300	+300	+2.0%
Nevada NNSA Sites	60,136	60,737	+601	+1.0%
Sandia National Laboratory	2,600	2,652	+52	+2.0%
Los Alamos National Laboratory	220,000	195,462	-24,538	-11.2%
Oak Ridge Reservation	410,000	292,781	-117,219	-28.6%
Savannah River Site	1,387,657	1,463,132	+75,475	+5.4%
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	396,907	391,642	-5,265	-1.3%
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	310,000	247,480	-62,520	-20.2%
West Valley Demonstration Project	75,000	75,215	+215	+0.3%
Gaseous Diffusion Plants	101,304	103,073	+1,769	+1.7%
Small Sites	131,456	66,692	-64,764	-49.3%
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination & Decommissioning Fund	841,129	715,112	-126,017	-15.0%
Oak Ridge	195,000	109,439	-85,561	-43.9%
Paducah	206,000	207,215	+1,215	+0.6%
Portsmouth	408,099	355,661	-52,438	-12.8%
Legacy Management	158,877	303,029	+144,152	+90.7%
National Nuclear Security Administration	15,228,618	16,485,000	+1,256,382	+8.3%
Weapons Activities	11,100,000	12,408,603	+1,308,603	+11.8%
Naval Reactors	1,930,000	1,993,302	+63,302	+3.3%
Naval Reactors	1,788,618	1,648,396	-140,222	-7.8%
Nuclear Energy	1,326,090	824,000	-502,090	-37.9%
Science	6,585,000	5,545,972	-1,039,028	-15.8%
Yucca Mountain and Interim Storage	0	116,000	+116,000	N/A
Nuclear Waste Disposal	0	90,000	+90,000	N/A
Defense Nuclear Waste Disposal	0	26,000	+26,000	N/A

* These figures are compiled from different sources: the Office of Management and Budget, Congressional Appropriations Committee reports, DOE budget justifications, and various press releases. There are some discrepancies in how each source calculates government spending.

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WIPP Celebrates 20th Anniversary

in an op-ed, “Cleanup of the weapons complex is the third largest liability of our country, right behind the national debt and social security/Medicare. WIPP is essential for clean-up...I ask you, who in good conscience could deny the full and complete volume authorized by Congress at WIPP? To not use WIPP to its fullest would be a tragedy.”

Marking the 20th anniversary of WIPP, Senator Martin Heinrich reflected, “I am proud to join the Carlsbad community to celebrate 20 years of operation at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant...I am deeply grateful to the entire Carlsbad community for how you have stepped up to meet that immense challenge.”

Many offices and agencies continue to coordinate to ensure safe and transparent operations at WIPP. Regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Mexico

Environment Department (NMED) are the major regulators, and DOE’s Office of Environmental Management (EM) Carlsbad Field Office leads the effort for TRU waste disposal around the country. Doug Hintze, the Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) Manager, commented on the partnership between WIPP and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, “Our strong relationship with our partners at WIPP helps us to execute our mission safely and efficiently. We congratulate our colleagues and neighbors in southern New Mexico on their historic anniversary and look forward to continue collaborating with them.”

Looking toward the future of the repository, DOE and NNSA are making further progress on initiatives such a new ventilation system to improve airflow and a proposal for a dilute-and-dispose plan at WIPP. After 20 years and thousands of shipments, WIPP continues to play an integral role in the cleanup of the U.S.’s Cold War environmental legacy.

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for the year. Soon after, DOE published its [FY 2020 Budget in Brief](#), which provides an overview of requested funding levels for the Department’s various program offices and initiatives. DOE is expected to release a detailed budget justification in the coming weeks.

Congressional appropriators are expected to fund the government consistent with FY 2019 enacted levels. This year’s (FY 19) Energy and Water appropriations, contained favorable funding levels for many DOE programs. With a new majority in the House in the 116th Session, the appropriations process may not be quite so smooth for the Energy and Water title, but it is still expected to be far less controversial and contentious than other spending packages.

The following is a summary of the President’s DOE FY 2020 budget request for some of DOE’s major program offices and initiatives:

Environmental Management

The budget request recommended a decrease in funding for EM for FY 2020. The administration proposed \$6.5 billion for EM, a decrease of about \$700 million below the amount Congress funded in FY 2019. Last year, the administration requested \$6.6 billion for EM.

Several EM sites would see significant decreases in funding under the President’s proposed budget, including Hanford and Oak Ridge. At least eight sites would see increases in funding, including Savannah River Site.

In the DOE Budget in Brief, the agency explained the decrease in cleanup funding at Hanford by noting, “The decrease from the FY 2019 enacted level reflects completion of the decommissioning and demolition activities of the Plutonium Finishing Plant facilities to slab-on-grade, completion of PUREX Tunnel #2, and completion of transfer of sludge off the Columbia River to T Plant in the Central Plateau.”

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At Oak Ridge, the decrease in funding is “attributed to funding received in FY 2019 to address critical deferred maintenance at ORNL and to address excess facilities in the Central Campus area, ramp up Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility construction activities and to accelerate preliminary design activities of the On Site Waste Disposal Facility, and completion of major nuclear facility cleanup activities at the East Tennessee Technology Park.”

At Savannah River Site, which would receive one of the largest cleanup funding increases under the President’s budget, the funding increase would support “initiation of the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative Line Item Project, preparation work of older-style tanks for bulk waste removal efforts to make progress towards operational closure and in support of feed preparation for Salt Waste Processing Facility and Defense Waste Processing Facility, and increased support for Waste Acceptance Criteria assessments needed to enable shipments to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and Performance Assessment update of E Area.”

For Idaho National Laboratory cleanup, the budget recommended \$344 million (an \$88 million decrease from FY 2019 enacted levels); \$195 million was recommended for Los Alamos National Laboratory (a \$25 million decrease); and \$398 million was recommended for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (a \$5.1 million decrease).

Nevada NNSA sites would receive \$60 million (a \$0.6 million increase), and West Valley Demonstration Project would receive \$75.2 million (a \$0.2 million increase). The budget proposed \$207 million for Paducah (a \$1.2 million increase) and \$355 million for Portsmouth (a \$52 million decrease). Funding for the Gaseous Diffusion Plants would increase \$1.7 million for a total of \$103 million.

National Nuclear Security Administration

The NNSA saw one of its largest budgets ever in FY 2019, and the White House recommended another significant increase for FY 2020. This year, the President’s budget request included \$16.5 billion for NNSA, a \$1.2 billion increase above the FY 2019 enacted level. The increase in funding, according to DOE, is to pursue five goals: “(1) maintain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear weapons stockpile; (2) reduce global nuclear threats; (3) strengthen key science, technology and engineering capabilities; (4) design and maintain safe and effective nuclear propulsion for the U.S. Navy; and (5) modernize the Nuclear Security infrastructure.”

The largest increase in the NNSA budget would be provided to Directed Stockpile Work (\$5.4 billion total), followed by Infrastructure and Operations (\$3.2 billion) and Advanced Simulation and Computing (\$830 million).

In its Budget in Brief, DOE highlighted support for the Infrastructure Modernization Program (IMI), which Congress directed NNSA to create in the [National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018](#). NNSA would use the current budget structure to focus on recapitalization and repair of its facilities, and increased funding would go to support life extension programs, stockpile stewardship and certification capabilities, and modernization of equipment and infrastructure to align with the [2018 Nuclear Posture Review](#).

Continuing from last year’s budget request, the FY 2020 proposal included \$220 million for the closure of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility. In 2018, DOE announced plans to convert MOX into a facility that would produce some of the nation’s plutonium pits—a mission they would share with Los Alamos National Laboratory. The FY 2020 budget request also included \$79 million to support dilute-and-dispose, an alternative to MOX for addressing surplus plutonium currently stored at the Savannah River Site (however, the plans for the action are still unclear).

Nuclear Energy

NE requested \$824 million in the FY 2020 budget request, a decrease in \$502 million or 37.9% from FY 2019 enacted levels. FY 2020 activities to extend the life of existing reactors and support early

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-stage research into advanced reactor technologies, such as fast or high temperature reactors, were cut by 33.5% from FY 2019 enacted levels. Programs for fuel cycle research and development and nuclear energy enabling technologies saw 65.9% and 35.5% cuts, respectively. However, Congress is expected to fund the NE program at levels on par with FY 2019, as nuclear energy currently has bipartisan support.

Science

The Office of Science requested \$5.5 billion for FY 2020, a decrease of over \$1 billion or 15.8% from FY 2019 enacted levels. The Office's Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Workforce Development, and Science Laboratories Infrastructure programs,

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	
DOE Programs	FY20 (\$M)
• Energy	2,407
• Science	5,546
• Environmental Management	6,469
• National Nuclear Security Administration	16,485
• Administration and Oversight	796
DOE Total	31,703

among others, would see cuts in funding. The Safeguards and Security program did receive an increase of \$4.5 million (4.3%) in order to support the implementation of mandated physical security modifications at laboratories throughout the DOE complex.

Legacy Management

LM manages DOE’s post-closure responsibilities at remediated DOE legacy sites (sites formally associated with the nuclear weapons complex and early atomic energy program). For FY 2020, LM’s budget request grew by nearly double the previous year’s, standing at \$303 million—a \$144 million or 90.7% increase from FY 2019 budget request and enacted levels. This is due to an additional \$141 million in the budget request to support a joint proposal by DOE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to consolidate funding and

budgetary planning for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). FUSRAP was established in 1974 to investigate, and cleanup or control exposure to residual contamination at private sites that had supported Manhattan Engineer District or U.S. Atomic Energy Commission activities. Upon its formation in 1977, DOE assumed control of the program, and in 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP site characterization and remediation to USACE. The FY 2020 budget request proposes to return budgeting authority for FUSRAP back to DOE, with USACE continuing to conduct cleanup of the program’s remaining sites on a reimbursable basis.”

Yucca Mountain and Interim Storage

Each budget request issued by the President (from FY 2018 to present) has contained funding for the Yucca Mountain project, which had not received appropriations in previous years under the past administration. Nevertheless, due to sustained opposition to the project by the Nevada Congressional delegation, Yucca Mountain enacted funding levels remain at zero. The President’s FY 2020 budget request signals a continued “commitment to nuclear waste management by supporting the implementation of a robust interim storage program and restarting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing proceeding for the Yucca Mountain geologic repository.” DOE’s FY 2020 request consists of \$116 million for “Yucca Mountain and Interim Storage”—\$90 million for nuclear waste disposal, and \$26 million for defense nuclear waste disposal. The FY 2020’s request for defense nuclear waste fell \$4 million short of the \$30 million contained in both the FY 2018 and 2019 requests. In the Department’s Budget in Brief, the request for Yucca Mountain funds is not accounted for under any existing DOE program office, suggesting that if Congress appropriates funds for Yucca Mountain, they may be used in part to stand up a new office (or revive an old office) to oversee nuclear waste disposal.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) [requested](#) \$38.5 million for “licensing activities related to the proposed Yucca Mountain deep geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste,” a decrease of \$9.2 million from the \$47.7 million the NRC requested in FY 2019.

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Secretary Perry Testifies In Series Of FY 2020 Budget Request Hearings

Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Rick Perry participated in a series of Congressional hearings from March 26 through April 3 to justify the administration's DOE and NNSA budget requests for Fiscal Year 2020 to various committees. The FY 2020 budget request for DOE is \$31.7 billion, nearly \$4 billion below the FY 2019 level. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) was recommended a \$700 million decrease, while NNSA was recommended a \$1.2 billion increase—one of the agency's largest budgets in history. In his [testimony](#) before the House and Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittees, Secretary Perry highlighted programs on which the administration is focused, including funding for Yucca Mountain licensing activities, support for advanced reactor technologies, continued environmental cleanup efforts, and production of plutonium pits at two sites.

Perry was asked about the cost to taxpayers of not have a licensed geologic repository, and about the likelihood that communities would consent to be an interim storage site when no final disposal pathways for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and certain high-level waste (HLW) exists. Secretary Perry noted that there are currently sites in 39 states where waste is “deposited,” forcing communities to act as de-facto storage facilities—a far from appropriate solution to the nuclear waste issue. Additionally, Perry stated he was “shocked” to learn that cleanup costs at Hanford would be between \$323 and \$677 billion and reiterated that the administration plans to take an “aggressive approach” to clean and dispose of tanks at Hanford.

Secretary Perry and NNSA Administrator Lisa Gordon-Hagerty [testified](#) about the budget request for atomic energy defense programs. Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee inquired about the administration's plan to produce plutonium pits at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and in South Carolina. Perry noted that there is a \$5 billion commitment to LANL and that

DOE is on track to meet the 30 pit per year requirement. He added, while LANL would remain the “center of excellence” for pit production, the “two-site approach bolsters the nuclear security enterprise's responsiveness and resiliency.” Administrator Gordon-Hagerty expressed confidence in the proposal to make “significant investments” in LANL's infrastructure to increase production capacity, as well as seeking \$410 million to repurpose MOX.

Now that Congress has received the President's budget request and heard further justification from administration officials, committees will begin working on legislation that authorizes and appropriates funding for DOE/NNSA programs. The House and Senate are slated to mark up the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020 throughout May and June, and the appropriations committees will develop funding bills in the coming months.

Senate Re-Introduces Nuclear Energy Leadership Act

The Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA) ([S. 903](#)) was first introduced in the Senate during the 115th Congress in September 2018. It was reintroduced in the current session on March 27, 2019, by a bipartisan group of Senators. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is the sponsor, with 14 other cosponsors, including from ECA member states: Sens. Alexander (R-TN), Risch (R-ID), Crapo (R-ID), Portman (R-OH), and Graham (R-SC).

The bill, according to a committee [press release](#), aims to “boost nuclear energy innovation and ensure advanced reactors can provide clean, safe, affordable, and reliable power to meet national and global energy needs...It will bring together private and public sector innovators to develop next-generation advanced reactor concepts.”

NELA accomplishes this through development of the following mechanisms:

- **Authorization of Long-Term Power Purchase Agreements**
 - Allows federal government to expand the potential length of a power purchase

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agreement (PPA) with a public utility up to 40 years.

- **Establishment Of A Long-Term Nuclear Power Purchase Agreement Pilot Program**

- The pilot program would allow for long-term PPAs for advanced nuclear projects, which substantially reduces the risk of public utilities of buying in to projects such as UAMPS' SMR project with NuScale.

- **Advanced Nuclear Reactor Research and Development Goals**

- Sets the parameters for DOE's nuclear "moonshot." Outlines specific targets for DOE nuclear research, including:
 - Demonstration projects that confirm advanced nuclear reactors, fuels, and other technology possess ability to provide power safely, reliably, etc.
 - Identifying research areas that, due to project scope or cost, the national labs are uniquely qualified to pursue—above the private sector.

- **Nuclear Energy Strategic Plan**

- This would require DOE to develop a 10-year strategic plan with specific goals that supports nuclear research and development (R&D) by encouraging public-private partnerships between the national labs, universities, and the private sector. This initiative would likely be coordinated through DOE's GAIN program.

- **Versatile, Reactor-Based Fast Neutron Source**

- This program would direct DOE to develop a fast neutron research facility that could be used to test advanced reactor components and validate the technologies. Currently these facilities only exist in China and Russia (US competitors).

- **Advanced Nuclear Fuel Security Programs**

- This program would establish a program to provide high-assay low-enriched uranium (HA-LEU, *pronounced hay-loo*), a fuel used in many advanced reactor designs, to select US advanced reactor developers until the private sector can develop the infrastructure necessary to produce HA-LEU domestically and for commercial use.

- **University Nuclear Leadership Program**

- Authorizes funding for DOE, NNSA, and NRC to jointly provide nuclear energy university scholarships and student research funding.

The bill text can be found [here](#), with a one page summary [here](#).

"My draft legislation takes commonsense steps to advance the licensing of the Yucca Mountain facility. The legislation also strengthens the nation's nuclear waste management program. After years of Washington looking the other way, it's time to protect American ratepayers and taxpayers. Next week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on the draft legislation. I look forward to continuing this important conversation at the hearing."

According to a [committee press release](#), the legislation will:

- Assist in the resolution of the pending Yucca Mountain license, which will allow the formal licensing process to determine if the repository can be licensed and constructed;
- Reform a broken financing mechanism to protect ratepayers and assure DOE has adequate funding to construct and operate a multi-generational infrastructure project;
- Direct the Department of Energy (DOE) to move forward with a temporary storage program to consolidate spent nuclear fuel from sites with a decommissioned reactor while work on the Yucca Mountain repository progresses, including the authority to enter into a contract with a non-federal entity;

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- Provide the state of Nevada and local stakeholders the opportunity to beneficially engage with the Federal government as the host State for the repository;
- Provide the most expeditious pathway to remove defense-waste from DOE sites; and
- Strengthen DOE program management and organization to more effectively implement its nuclear waste program.

Nevada lawmakers are against the legislation.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE; COMPANION TO SHIMKUS BILL



Atop Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, signs warn of possible radiation near a test well.

On April 24, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, released a [draft](#) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2019, a bill to reform US nuclear waste management policy and advance the licensing process for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. A hearing for the committee to discuss the bill is on May 1. The bill is the Senate's version of Rep. John Shimkus' (R-IL) Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018 ([H.R. 3053](#)) which passed the House in May of last year.

Senate Committee Advances DOE Nominees

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources [advanced](#) four DOE nominees in March. President Trump resubmitted the nominations after they expired at the end of the 115th Congress; each nominee was reported favorably out of the Committee in 2018 but never received a full vote on the Senate floor. The nominees include: Rita Baranwal to be Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy; William Cooper to be General Counsel; Christopher Fall to be Director of the Office of Science; and Lane Genatowski to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The Senate voted to confirm William Cooper as DOE General Counsel on April 30, and the other three nominees remain pending for final confirmation.

MAJOR CONTRACTS AND AWARDS

SRS Liquid Waste Contract Extended through September 2019

On April 2, DOE [announced](#) an extension of the liquid waste operations contract held by Savannah River Remediation (SRR). The extension is valued at around \$750 million through September 30, 2020. After an original solicitation for a 10-year contract was released in March 2016, DOE canceled the solicitation in February this year, noting changes in the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) procurement strategy. SRR began work on its initial contract in 2009 and has received short-term extensions since the contract ended in 2017.

DOE Awards \$19 Million to Support Advanced Nuclear Technology

On March 27, DOE [announced](#) the funding selectees for multiple domestic advanced nuclear technology projects, to receive approximately \$19 million in funding through a cost-sharing award structure. The awards are through the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) and are aimed to allow industry to partner with federal agencies, public and private laboratories, universities, and other domestic entities to advance US commercial nuclear capability. This is the fourth round of funding announced by NE, the first of which was announced in April 2018. NE has awarded a total of \$117 thus far.

DOE Finalizes Additional \$3.7 Billion in Loan Guarantees for Vogtle Plant Construction

DOE will [provide](#) additional loan guarantees to the Vogtle Advanced Nuclear Energy Project, Secretary Rick Perry announced during a trip to the power plant in March. The loans, amounting up to \$3.7 billion, will be used for continued construction of Vogtle Units 3 and 4. It is the first new nuclear power plant to become licensed and begin construction in over 30 years. In his announcement, Secretary Perry stated, "The Vogtle project is critically important to supporting the Administration's direction to revitalize and expand the U.S. nuclear industry. A strong nuclear industry supports a reliable and resilient grid, and strengthens our energy and national security. As I've witnessed firsthand today, Vogtle is also an energy infrastructure project with a massive scope employing thousands of workers."

In Memoriam



On March 29, 2019, famed Manhattan Project photographer James Edward "Ed" Westcott passed away at the age of 97. Westcott was the official photographer for Oak Ridge during the 1940's, capturing some of the most iconic photos from the Manhattan Project. He was an icon in the Oak Ridge community, and his photos will remain a great testament to the great work the men and women of Oak Ridge performed during World War II. Read more [here](#).

ECA has also learned that former ECA Chair and City of Westminster, CO Councilmember Sam Dixon. Councilmember Dixon played an essential role in guiding the direction of ECA operations and policy development in the early years of our organization. ECA is grateful for her great contributions, particularly her advocacy for the safe cleanup of DOE sites, and wish her loved ones well.



DOE INSPECTOR GENERAL INSPECTION AND AUDIT REPORTS

Audit of Department of Energy's Management of Legacy Information Technology Infrastructure

The DOE Office of Inspector General (IG) conducted an [audit](#) to determine whether the Department has effectively managed the information technology (IT) that is used to support various nuclear security and environmental management missions. Prior similar reviews found outdated software and hardware. Upon finding opportunities for improvement to manage the lifecycle of IT systems in the recent audit, OIG issued the following recommendation: "Develop policies and procedures to ensure unsupported IT systems and system components be phased out as rapidly as possible, including defining the resources that should be considered legacy IT and establishing a comprehensive plan to replace legacy IT across the Department to include its contractors."

Audit of Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory

NNSA committed to the construction of two separate facilities for processing low-level waste (LLW) and transuranic liquid waste (TLW) at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF). The OIG [audited](#) NNSA's management of the project and found that the agency provided adequate oversight, but the former operating contractor, Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), experienced problems with the design process, construction, and subcontractor management. The OIG recommended that NNSA "(1) ensure that lessons learned are adequately implemented during TLW performance and (2) ensure that cross-cutting project management lessons learned are identified and incorporated into institutional practices."

NUCLEAR SAFETY BOARD RAISES CONCERNS TO DOE ABOUT SEISMIC HAZARDS AT NEVADA SITE

On March 21, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) chairman Bruce Hamilton sent [a letter and staff report](#) to DOE Secretary Rick Perry regarding the Board's analysis that the Department has not adequately addressed seismic hazards at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

The report found that a study performed in 2007 by a former NNSS contractor identified a significant seismic hazard increase for the Device Assembly Facility (DAF). DNFSB contends that DOE "has not evaluated the impact of the increased seismic hazard on safety-related structure, systems, and components credited to protect public health and safety during a seismic event... a seismically induced high explosive violent reaction [at DAF]

could result in unmitigated dose consequences to the offsite public."

DNFSB plans to review an upcoming safety analysis for DAF that is due summer 2019 and promised to provide analysis and recommendations on any additional items of concern the report contains.

In an April 2 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, Secretary Perry [told](#) Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) that he "thinks it's safe," but also vowed to take the DNFSB report into account as DOE examines the safety of DAF and other facilities at NNSS.



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](#).

GAO REPORTS

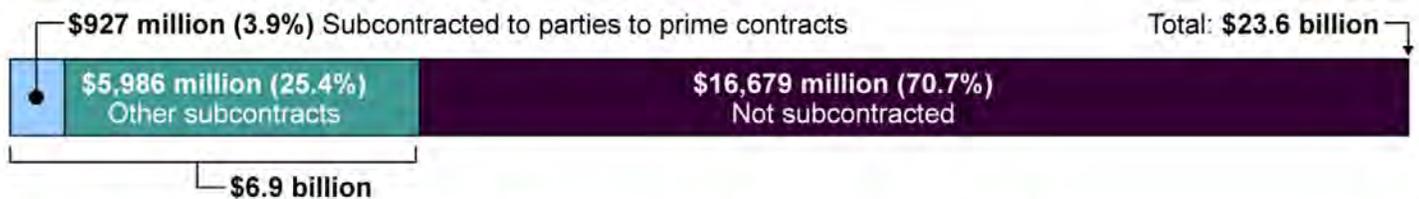
DOE Could Improve Program and Project Management by Better Classifying Work and Following Leading Practices

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a [study](#) of the Office of Environmental Management’s (EM) management of cleanup work and how EM’s cleanup policy aligns with “leading practices for program and project management.” In its examination, GAO found that EM categorizes its work as “capital asset projects,” which require review by DOE leadership outside of EM, or “operations activities,” which do not require review outside of EM. These classifications of EM work are left to site managers’ discretion because no classification requirements have been established by DOE.

GAO concluded that “EM’s cleanup policy does not follow any of 9 selected program management leading practices or 9 of 12 selected project management leading practices.” In its seven recommendations, GAO advised DOE to establish cleanup work classification requirements and follow project management leading practices.

Actions Needed to Strengthen Subcontract Oversight

A GAO [review](#) of DOE’s and NNSA’s largest prime contracts found that 30 percent of the contractors’ obligations were awarded to thousands of subcontractors. GAO concluded that “it can be difficult to track changes in the ownership of parties to the contracts and to understand the relationships between parties.” Specifically, the report raised concerns that in some instances DOE and NNSA did not ensure that contractors audited subcontractors’ incurred costs. While DOE does conduct many reviews of contractors’ oversight of subcontractors, subcontractor ownership is not independently reviewed by local officials to prevent potential conflicts of interest. Among GAO’s six recommendations are that DOE should implement independent reviews of subcontractor ownership and requirements for local offices to ensure timely subcontract audits.



Source: GAO analysis of Department of Energy (DOE) and contractor information. | GAO-19-107

Review of the NNSA Report on the Nevada National Security Site Contract Competition

NNSA, as required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, released a cost benefit analysis of its May 2017 contract award for management and operations (M&O) of the Nevada Site. GAO [reviewed](#) NNSA’s report, which is also required by law. The review found that NNSA sought to achieve cost savings and improved performance in several ways, including changes to how fees are awarded to the contractor and more specific performance-based requirements in the statement of work. NNSA estimated that these contract clauses will save \$112 million over the 10-year contract term when compared to extending the prior contract over the same period.

Priority Open Recommendations, DOE and NRC

GAO published a list of its [priority open recommendations](#) that have not been implemented by DOE as of April 2019. In the April 2018 version of the list, GAO identified 13 priority recommendations that DOE has still not implemented. This year, GAO added 6 new recommendations to the list, in areas such as improving project management, addressing nuclear modernization challenges, and addressing DOE’s environmental liability.

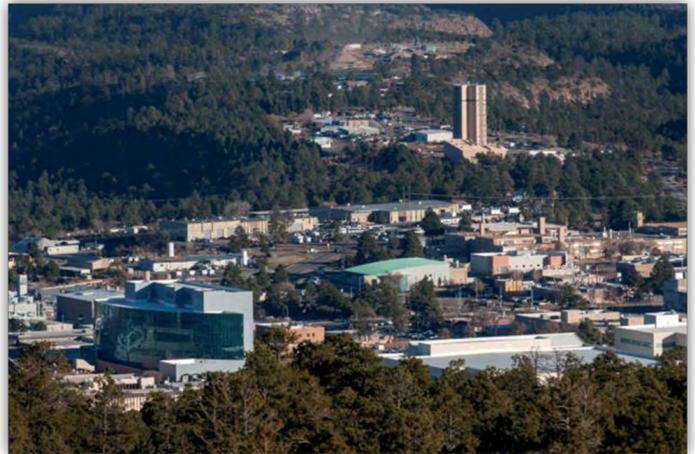
NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR SIGNS GROSS RECEIPTS TAX BILL FOR NATIONAL AND STATE LABS

After several years of uncertainty of whether the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) would force its contractor to try to circumvent paying New Mexico taxes, on February 28, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) [signed SB 11](#), a bill that will require the operators of both national and state-owned laboratories in New Mexico to pay the state's gross receipts tax (GRT). New Mexico law exempts certain non-profits (specifically 501(c)(3) organizations) from the GRT, which became a serious concern of Los Alamos County and communities and governmental agencies in Northern New Mexico, where the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is operated.

The bill cleared both the New Mexico House of Representatives and Senate with bipartisan support. The state legislature also passed the bill in the 2018 session, but former Governor Susana Martinez vetoed it.

According to the legislative analysis of SB 11, the State of New Mexico would stand to lose [\\$25-30 million](#) per year in tax revenue if Triad National Security, the LANL operating contractor, were exempt from the GRT. Los Alamos County estimates that it would lose around \$20 million per year in revenue, which it argues would drastically impact its ability to provide municipal services to its community and to the laboratory.

A [press release](#) from Governor Lujan Grisham's office noted the bill would ensure that "adjacent New Mexico communities will be able to depend on a steady stream of important revenue." NNSA contractors have been paying taxes in New Mexico for over a decade and Triad, as the new contractor, has been paying the GRT taxes since it began its work in November 2018. The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department concluded that Triad did not qualify for a GRT exemption under its current corporate structure. The communities had concerns that NNSA was pressuring Triad to change its corporate structure (and agreements with its owners) to become a 501(c)(3) entity



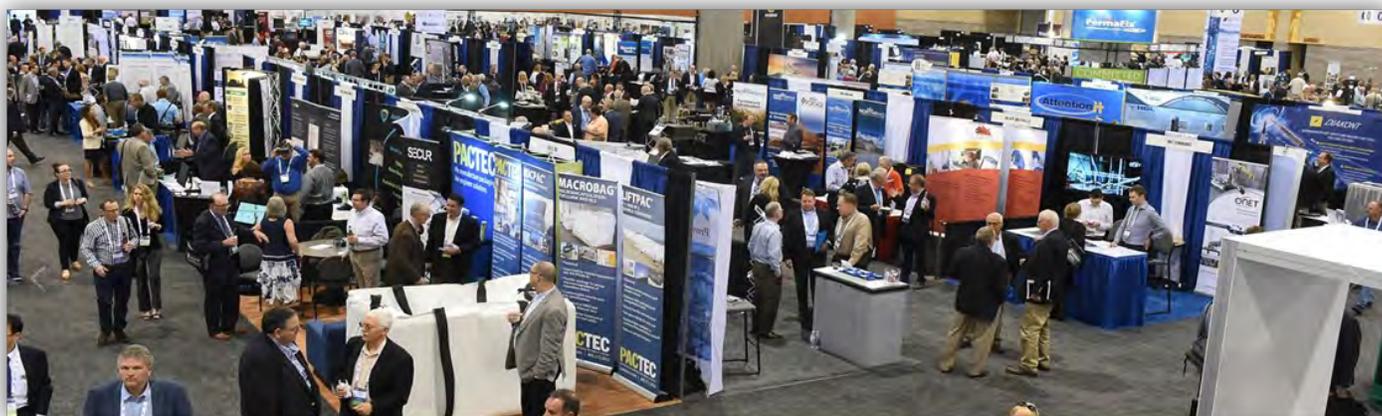
Los Alamos National Laboratory
(Eddie Moore/Albuquerque Journal)

despite the fact that Triad did not have that corporate status that would permit it to be 501(c)(3) when it bid on the project.

Los Alamos County Councilmember and ECA Treasurer David Izraelevitz commented, "Los Alamos National Laboratory is a major economic engine for Northern New Mexico, and it was a major priority for us to assure that taxes from their activity supported services required of the State and local communities. We are pleased that there was universal support for this bill in the New Mexico Legislature and that the Governor signed it into law. We look forward to continuing conversations with Triad on the ways that local governments and LANL can collaborate to the benefit of both."

Upon the signing of the bill, state Rep. Christine Chandler, whose district represents parts of Los Alamos County, [commented](#), "Ensuring continued, stable GRT from the Los Alamos National Laboratory is critical to the long-term financial strength of the region...Los Alamos in particular would be hard hit by a multi-million dollar cut and local businesses and taxpayers would be left unfairly covering the costs of critical infrastructure and services."

ECA MEMBERS LEAD WITH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AT WASTE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIA



ECA members and staff participated in this year's [Waste Management Symposia](#) (WMS) in Phoenix, AZ, speaking on panels and authoring papers on subjects ranging from off- vs. on-site disposal of nuclear waste, DOE's end states contracting model, nuclear waste definitions and interpretations, and the role of women leadership in the industry.

The WMS took place this year from March 3-7, with a central theme of encouraging engagement of young people in STEM education. The following is a brief synopsis of ECA member participation in the event.

Why Cleanup Acceptance is Running into Conflicts – Off-site Disposal Versus On-Site Disposal

Local government input in environmental cleanup decisions is an essential ingredient in a successful cleanup; this is a particular concern for the local governments adjacent to the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation due to mercury disposal at a proposed second on-site landfill where groundwater levels exist at a depth that will require a deviation from State standards. The local governments have asked DOE to undertake a risk and cost assessment on disposing the mercury off-site. To date, such information has not been provided. Amy Fitzgerald, Ph.D., of the City of Oak Ridge authored a [paper](#) on the subject entitled "Why Cleanup Acceptance Is Running into Conflicts –

Off-site Disposal Versus On-site Disposal" that was featured at the conference.

Paper Background

For years the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) identified several sites to receive shipments of various types of wastes. However, with the backlog at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the inability to license Yucca Mountain, and the agency's desire to expedite cleanup, DOE is trying to "dispose of" or "store" more waste belonging to the Federal government on-site. Some states and communities that were "promised" disposal of DOE's waste in geologic repositories and licensed landfills in arid locations, are now being told that on-site disposal is the best path forward. Competition for resources is forcing more sites to focus on near term cost savings of on-site disposal, rather than develop comprehensive life-cycle estimates representing a more realistic picture of costs associated with isolating radioactive and other hazardous materials on-site in perpetuity.

Several of DOE's closed sites (Fernald, Weldon Springs, and Rocky Flats) have on-site waste disposal landfills, or "cells," that were constructed as part of the cleanup remedy, and where radioactive and other hazardous wastes remain. The regulatory drivers for these facilities are primarily the Comprehensive Environmental

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ECA Members Lead with Policy Recommendations at Waste Management Symposia

Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as “Superfund,” and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The DOE’s Office of Legacy Management (LM), created in 2003, is responsible at these sites for long-term surveillance and maintenance, records management, and for ensuring that post-closure responsibilities are met. Several of DOE’s largest sites with active cleanup programs – Oak Ridge, Savannah River, and Hanford, also have on-site engineered landfills for “legacy” waste generated from past production activities. These landfills were constructed pursuant to CERCLA and are managed by the DOE Environmental Management program at each site.

Since 2012, DOE officials in Oak Ridge have been actively pursuing the construction of a second on-site landfill to dispose of radioactive, hazardous, and toxic wastes, including mercury-contaminated demolition debris. The agency is concerned that space is running out in their existing CERCLA landfill and cannot accommodate the large volumes of waste that are expected to be generated from the cleanup program over the next decade. DOE recently issued a proposed plan for the second landfill for public comment.

One of the criteria required by CERCLA to be considered in the decision-making process is “Community Acceptance.” Numerous concerns about DOE’s proposed plan have been raised by citizens, federal and state regulators, local officials, and environmental scientists. The paper provides the background and examines issues affecting community acceptance of DOE’s proposal for additional on-site disposal.

Paper Conclusions

The paper explores the issues and possible solutions in a case study on proposed on-site disposal of waste at the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation, and draws the following preliminary conclusions:

The City of Oak Ridge and other stakeholders recognize that the federal government has a problem to solve. They want to help solve the problem, but



the CERCLA process and the Federal Facilities Agreement do not provide the City a formal seat at the table. Decisions are being made that will affect the Oak Ridge community for hundreds of years into the future.

- Community and Stakeholder engagement early in the decision-making process is essential. The initiative taken by the community to systematically evaluate the DOE’s proposals and technical documents has been instrumental to determining whether community acceptance can be achieved.
- Risk-based decisions are inherently uncertain, and must be made at the community level, as each site is different. The community must be provided the science, technology, tools and resources to understand the human health and environmental risks, both in the near term and long term.
- The process must include meaningful education and discussion on waste acceptance criteria, which can facilitate community acceptance of certain types of waste, but also clearly show DOE which waste must be disposed off-site.
- DOE should re-evaluate its cleanup contracts to decouple performance bonuses from the schedule for on-site disposal of CERCLA waste. Considering the lack of technical information and site characterization at this stage in the process, incentive based contracting places too

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many constraints and excessive pressure on the agency, its contractors and regulators to make a near term decision that may not be in the long-term best interests of the community or the federal government.

- Research should continue to examine case studies where communities have been more actively engaged in decision making. DOE should consider expanding/reconvening the agency's On-Site Disposal Working Group to help foster communication and assess onsite disposal performance across the DOE complex. [27] Sites such as Rocky Flats will require protective action forever, and much is to be learned as stakeholders are just at the front end of the learning curve.
- In the end, DOE needs community support and community acceptance to successfully implement the agency's cleanup mission. Ongoing dialogue with the community saves both time and money but more importantly, cooperation helps ensure that effective long-term cleanup occurs.

DOE's End States Contracting Model Needs to Consider the Community: the Ultimate EM Customer

[SRS Community Reuse Organization](#) President/CEO and ECA member Rick McLeod participated on a WMS panel to discuss DOE's procurement activities and strategy update. Noting the large number of DOE contract re-bids pending, Mr. McLeod highlighted in his [presentation](#) the four recommendations from ECA's June 2015 report, [Changing Course: The Case for Sensible DOE Acquisition Reform](#); they are:

- Appropriately balance the risk in contracts
- Rely on proven contract types that encourage competition
- Incentivize small business opportunities and healthy subcontracting
- View the host communities as the ultimate "customer"



Mr. McLeod stated that community commitment remains a critical consideration of the contracting process, and ECA's recommendations are important as DOE looks to implement their new contracting model: end state contracting.

According to DOE, end state contracting will "provide EM the ability to partner with industry and stakeholders of the Program to openly negotiate the right, risk-based interim and final end states."

Mr. McLeod's panel highlighted a number of key questions for EM and local governments to consider regarding contracting model:

- How does end states contracting work when there is no agreement on a change to end states with the local communities?
- What is DOE's plan to engage local governments? When?
- How will contractors engage local governments in (re)defining end states?

Mr. McLeod noted that some concerns with the end state contracting model are:

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ECA Members Lead with Policy Recommendations at Waste Management Symposia

- Short term task orders may not be the best mechanism for long-term cleanup success and enduring partnerships with the community.
- Causes changeover in employment (impacting workers and benefits).
- No significant investment in the community (since a contractor may only be there for a year or two and they won't have enough funds to support the programs).
- Contractor must comply with all current, applicable, regulatory requirements, such as Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestones and Records of Decision (ROD), pending approval of any proposed changes.
- Attracting and retaining workforce will be problematic and transient.

In his [presentation](#), Mr. McLeod also provided guidance to contractors on engaging with host communities both before and after a contract is awarded. For example, McLeod identified that *before a contract is awarded*, the contractor should become familiar with the local community; identify workforce availability and demands; and identify economic strengths and challenges within the community. Host community should prepare to help potential contractors understand the lay of the land; establish a listing of points of contact for the contractor to use; be consistent in communication with the contractor; and have a data package available for contractors that provides community information with which contractor should be familiar.

After a contract is awarded, contractors should meet with local government and other community representatives, develop an effective communication process for the term of the contract, identify needs of near-term and the out-years, prioritize needs against to company budget constraints, and develop

a draft community commitment plan and share with the appropriate community points of contact.

ECA Expresses Support for DOE's Proposed HLW Interpretation; Calls on DOE to Lead, Provide Data

At WMS, Assistant Secretary Anne White spoke of efforts to drive a "completion mindset" within the Office of Environmental Management. White shared that her office is "working to get the best



value for every dollar for cleanup;" that DOE wants "to reduce M&O costs and instead use those resources for cleanup;" and that the "most up-to-date technology and information should drive cleanup." Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Gilbertson similarly described a "renewed sense of urgency" in the pursuit of the "right cleanup," and striving to get projects, as Assistant Secretary White says, "done-done."

DOE's stated focus at WMS aligns with potential benefits outlined by Kara Colton, ECA's Director of Nuclear Energy Policies, during her [presentation](#) for the panel, "Implementation Approaches & Expectations for US DOE Radwaste Management." Colton expressed ECA's support for DOE moving ahead to evaluate its proposed interpretation on the statutory definition of high-level nuclear waste (HLW), expecting that the potential benefits could meet DOE's goals by:

- Reducing years of operations.
- Clearing the way for treated HLW that qualifies as transuranic (TRU) waste to go to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) or a

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ECA Members Lead with Policy Recommendations at Waste Management Symposia

private facility before a HLW repository is available.

- Accelerating tank retrievals and closures.
- Allowing lower activity HLW to be disposed of in a grout form and somewhere other than a deep geologic repository.
- Realizing taxpayer savings of more than \$40 billion.

While ECA expects that DOE's proposed interpretation or "clarification" is a technically-defensible, safe and risk-based alternative that can move waste out of ECA communities more expeditiously, Colton cautioned DOE still has work to do. In her [presentation](#), she called on DOE to lead the process and provide:

- Data: DOE needs to completely evaluate – and share publicly – the feasibility, costs, cost savings, regulatory impacts and timelines.
- Formal meaningful engagement with host communities, state regulators, Tribes and stakeholders.
- A framework for implementation.
- An understanding of how the proposed interpretation is and will be considered as part of DOE's End-States Contracting Strategy and 10-year planning efforts.

Colton discussed other recommendations ECA [formally submitted](#) in response to DOE's October 10, 2018, [request for public comment](#) on its proposed HLW Interpretation. These include being transparent, revising [DOE Order 435.1](#), and working with the state of New Mexico on a permit modification for WIPP to remove the prohibition on accepting tank wastes and wastes managed as HLW.

Rick McLeod, ECA member and President/CEO of the SRS Community Reuse Organization, also presented on the panel, providing the local, grassroots perspective on DOE's proposed interpretation from around the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. View his slides [here](#).

ECA's support for DOE's efforts to identify safe, alternative options to move waste disposition and cleanup forward was also discussed in an article, "A New Interpretation of High-Level Waste," featured in the Spring 2019 edition of *Radwaste Solutions* magazine. You can read the article [here](#) alongside other featured articles.

ECA shares perspectives on Idaho cleanup, women in leadership

ECA Secretary and Idaho Falls, ID Mayor Rebecca Casper presented at a panel entitled "30 Years of Environmental Management at the Idaho National Laboratory," which provided a broad overview of the history and future of cleanup in Idaho, particularly as current work at the site enters in to the beginning of the final stages of cleanup, and considers the near-term planning for site closure.

Mayor Casper was joined on the panel by Nolan Jensen, Federal Project Director - Soil and Water Remediation, US DOE - Idaho Operations Office - Idaho Cleanup Project; Kliss McNeel, Director ESSH, Fluor Idaho; Mark Clough, INL Settlement Agreement Coordinator, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; and Darrell Early, Natural Resources Division Chief, Office of the Attorney General's Natural Resources Division, Idaho.

Mayor Casper was also invited to speak at a Women in Waste Management discussion at the 2019 WMS. Mayor Casper was joined by panel moderator Dr. Kathryn McCarthy, Vice President for Research and Development for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories; EM Assistant Secretary Anne White; DOE Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Melissa Burnison; and Karen Wiemelt, Senior Vice President and General Manager for North American Nuclear for Jacobs.

The panelists shared insights of unique challenges and experiences they have encountered as women in the waste management industry, and gave women and young professional in the audience advice to take initiatives to advance their careers and become transformational leaders.

Mayor Casper shared with the audience her observation that it takes education and a robust personal and professional network to encourage young people, especially women, to excel professionally, giving examples from her own experiences with family and mentors, and sharing data on the subject.



2019 Upcoming Events

May 1, 2019	Discussion of DOE's Proposed HLW Interpretation, Implementation, and Impact , Washington, DC; by invitation only, contact meganc@energyca.org for details.
May 2, 2019	ECA Member Roundtable Discussion , Washington, DC; by invitation only, contact meganc@energyca.org for details.
August 14-15, 2019	ECA Peer Exchange: Manhattan Project National Historical Park Implementation , Oak Ridge, TN; by invitation only, contact meganc@energyca.org for details
September 10, 2019	ECA Board of Directors Meeting , Alexandria, VA; by invitation only, contact meganc@energyca.org for details.
September 10-12, 2019	2019 National Cleanup Workshop , Alexandria, VA; visit www.cleanupworkshop.com for details.
September 10-12	2019 National Cleanup Workshop, Alexandria, VA; visit www.cleanupworkshop.com for more information.

ECA Articles

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2019 Congressional Calendar



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

April

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Budget resolution deadline	16	17	18	19 Good Fri Passover (begins)	20
21 Good Friday	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Orthodox Goodfri.	29	30				

May

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

June

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4 Juneteenth	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						

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 Dia de la Independencia	12	13	14	15	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 Labor Day	3	4	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 Rosh Hashana (begins)	30					

October

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 FY20 (begins)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Rosh Hashana (begins)	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Yom Kippur	28	29	30	31		

November

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

December

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	20	21
22 Hanukkah (begins)	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 New Year's (begins)	27	28
29	30	31				



Assistant Secretary Anne White to Speak at 2019 National Cleanup Workshop

Hear the latest from Assistant Secretary Anne White on DOE's goals for ensuring continued progress at EM sites. The National Cleanup Workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to hear directly from Assistant Secretary White and other senior DOE officials about the 30 years of EM cleanup and the path forward for clean-up in the future.

"Advancing Goal-Oriented Nuclear Waste Cleanup, Today and Tomorrow"



**September 10-12, 2019
Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
Alexandria, VA**

**To register, please visit
www.cleanupworkshop.com**

Join more than 700 attendees, including senior Department officials, Congressional leaders, DOE contractors, and state, tribal and local government leaders for the largest EM-focused gathering in the D.C. area.

