



EM Poised to Build on Success, White Says in Address

[EM](#) is poised to build on recent achievements and launch a new era of progress, Acting Assistant Secretary William “Ike” White said Monday at the Waste Management Symposia 2021.

Speaking at the event held virtually this year, White said EM delivered on key priorities during 2020 while adhering to precautions and worker safety protections during the COVID-19 pandemic. EM now is taking the next step.

“Today, EM is at the start of a new era, with a new Administration, and a new set of ambitious priorities for the year. And, hopefully, the start of a post-pandemic world,” he said.

White was a plenary speaker at the symposia, one of the nation’s leading gatherings of government, international, and industry experts on waste management. Other EM speakers are participating in sessions throughout the weeklong conference.



Acting Assistant Secretary William "Ike" White

White said EM will build on the transformational progress achieved in 2020 in tank waste capabilities, successful demolitions that resulted in skyline changes, a shrinking cleanup footprint, and the award of contracts that accelerate safe progress.

In the key field of tank waste treatment — one of EM’s biggest challenges — White said the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the [Savannah River Site](#) now is operational and is expected to process 6 million gallons of waste this year.

Further, the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit at the [Idaho National Laboratory Site](#) is expected to start up in 2021. The [Hanford Site](#) will complete construction of the Tank Side Cesium Removal system, a pretreatment system critical to the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) approach to treating tank waste.



Among other priorities, White said a number of sites will enter new phases in addressing contaminated excess facilities. [Oak Ridge](#) is focusing on building demolition at the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory after successfully taking down the entire uranium enrichment complex at the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Other notable demolition goals for 2021 include the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) in New York beginning to pull down its last major facility, and the completion of demolition of DOE-owned buildings at the [Energy Technology Engineering Center](#) in Ventura County, California. Most importantly, White said, EM will continue to shrink its footprint by continuing to make land and resources available this year to communities near EM sites.

White said new DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm understands the importance of the EM mission and DOE's responsibility to deliver on commitments.

"She and the new DOE team know the vital role the communities near our sites played in U.S. history," he said. "They also know how important the EM mission is to help those communities have a strong future.

"The cleanup progress we make doesn't just support national security, energy, and research missions," he said. "It also helps us to create opportunities for economic development, conservation, and recreation for the communities EM sites call home."

White applauded the performance of the EM workforce and others who supported the program during the pandemic over the past year.

"I have been extremely proud of the way the entire cleanup program and all of the companies that support the program have coordinated and worked together to ensure the safety and health of our workforce," White said. "In the nuclear industry, we have always been clear that the safety of the public and the workforce is our top priority. And in the current circumstances, all of you have worked to demonstrate that this truly is a core value for the cleanup program.

"Our ability to move forward on the public safety mission in the past year has been due, in large part, to the effectiveness of the actions we've taken to ensure the safety of the workforce, and we don't want to lose sight of that as we get closer to an end point on this pandemic," he said.



EM Enters New Era with Release of 2021 Priorities to Advance Cleanup Mission

EM CY21 MISSION AND PRIORITIES		 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
MISSION STATEMENT: To complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.			
PRIORITY #1:	ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MILESTONES		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction of the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system at Hanford • Complete construction of the Saltstone Disposal Unit #7 at Savannah River Site • Complete construction of the Salt Reduction Building at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant 		
PRIORITY #2:	EXECUTE KEY PROJECTS OF EM CLEANUP MISSION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start up the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit at the Idaho National Laboratory Site • Complete processing of 6 million gallons of tank waste at the Savannah River Site • Complete Biology Complex demolition at Oak Ridge • Complete 30 shipments of transuranic waste from EM-Los Alamos • Complete demolition of all DOE-owned buildings at the Energy Technology Engineering Center • Complete demolition of 40 percent of Building X-326 at Portsmouth • Complete disposition of remaining legacy EM-Los Alamos transuranic waste at Waste Control Specialists • Begin mining of the West Access Drifts at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant • Complete stabilization of below grade cribs/tanks at Hanford • Disposition 1.5 million pounds of hazardous refrigerant from Paducah • Remove a cumulative 12 million tons of former uranium mill tailings at Moab • Begin demolition of the Main Plant Processing Building at West Valley • Complete demolition of Building 175 to slab at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory • Complete demolition of Old Town Building 7 to slab at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory 		
PRIORITY #3:	REDUCE THE EM COMPLEX FOOTPRINT		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer East Tennessee Technology Park real property to other DOE programs/community organizations • Transfer 200 acres to the local community reuse organization at Portsmouth 		
PRIORITY #4:	AWARD CONTRACTS THAT ENABLE ACCELERATED PROGRESS ACROSS THE EM ENTERPRISE		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award Idaho Cleanup Contract • Award Oak Ridge Reservation Cleanup Contract • Award Integrated Mission Completion Contract at the Savannah River Site • Award Portsmouth Infrastructure Contract • Award new contracts for deactivation and decommissioning activities at Office of Naval Reactors sites 		
PRIORITY #5:	DRIVE INNOVATION AND IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IN THE EM MISSION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue an EM-wide succession plan for a long-term diverse and sustainable workforce • Update the EM-wide strategic vision for 2021-2031 • Identify and complete an analysis for a second high-level waste interpretation waste stream • Complete the waste incidental to reprocessing evaluation for Hanford Waste Management Area C 		

EM's Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities lists specific planned accomplishments across the cleanup complex for the coming year.



WASHINGTON, D.C. – [EM](#) has released its [Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities](#), a key marker to the program’s continuing success in addressing the legacy of nuclear weapons production and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

The Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities outlines a new list of specific planned accomplishments across the cleanup complex for the coming year. Built on significant achievements in 2020, the Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities marks a new era for EM that will continue progress in addressing environmental risks and financial liabilities, while advancing EM’s obligations to the communities that played such an important role in U.S. security and prosperity.

“EM is protecting the environment today and helping to prepare the communities near our sites for the economy of tomorrow. By successfully tackling our past environmental legacy, EM progress means safer, cleaner sites and new economic opportunities for the future,” said William “Ike” White, acting assistant secretary for EM.



Crews demolish Building 9210 at the 1940s-era Biology Complex at Oak Ridge.

The Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities sets goals at EM sites, including:

- Completing construction of the Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) system at the [Hanford Site](#). TSCR is a pre-treatment system critical to the site’s Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste (DFLAW) approach to treating tank waste.
- Completing the processing of 6 million gallons of tank waste at the [Savannah River Site](#) in South Carolina, a goal made possible by the 2020 startup of the major Salt Waste Processing Facility.



- Transitioning from deactivation to demolition at Building X-326, one of three former uranium enrichment process buildings at the [Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant](#) in Ohio.
- Completing demolition of the 1940s-era Biology Complex at the [Oak Ridge](#) site in Tennessee.
- Beginning demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) in New York, the last major facility at the former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing center.
- Completing demolition of all 18 DOE-owned buildings at the [Energy Technology Engineering Center](#) in Ventura County, California.
- Awarding contracts that continue to enable safe and efficient cleanup progress across the EM enterprise.

The Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities is available [here](#).