

Mission and Priorities for 2021 Put EM on Track to Success, Panelists Say



Workers prepare rebar for another concrete pour atop the shear walls of the Salt Reduction Building, which is part of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System. The building will use misters and filters to extract salt from the airflow before the air heads to the high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration of the New Filter Building, which uses 1,000-horsepower fans to pull air through the mine and to the surface. Completion of construction of the Salt Reduction Building is among EM's Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities.

EM's annual [Mission and Priorities list](#) sets a clear path to success across the DOE complex, site managers said last week at the Waste Management Symposia 2021.

The Mission and Priorities list "gives real, actionable goals and demonstrates to all stakeholders that EM wants to make progress," EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Todd Shrader said in leading a panel discussion on the newly released 2021 priorities.

Shrader joined [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) Director Bryan Bower, [Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management](#) Manager Jay Mullis, [Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office](#) Manager Robert Edwards, and [Carlsbad Field Office](#) Manager Reinhard Knerr for a discussion on how EM sites view the priorities.





EM CY21 MISSION AND PRIORITIES 

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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

“The goals set us up for future viability to successfully fulfill our mission,” Knerr said.

Mullis noted how the Mission and Priorities reach employees across the workforce.

“The headquarters priorities flow into Oak Ridge’s strategic plan, which flows to site plans, then into people’s performance plans, and onto contractor incentives,” he said.



Portsmouth Site workers survey a transite panel from the X-326 uranium enrichment process building. This is one of the many steps taken to ensure a safe demolition. EM's Calendar Year 2021 Mission and Priorities call for transitioning from deactivation to demolition at Building X-326.



In 2021, Oak Ridge's EM program is scheduled to remove all of the remaining facilities in the former Biology Complex at the Y-12 National Security Complex. This project is eliminating buildings on DOE's list of high-risk excess contaminated facilities and clearing land for important national security missions.



Crews at the **West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP)** installed a tilt cab to an excavator, which will enable the operator to view high-reach areas by tilting the cab upward during demolition, improving safety, efficiency, and



productivity. Beginning demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at **WVDP**, the last major facility at the former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing center, is one of EM's 2021 priorities.

Last year's Mission and Priorities list was ambitious, and while EM accomplished the bulk of what was planned, it did not meet every goal it set for 2020, Shrader noted. However, if EM had set easy goals, the cleanup program and its sites would not have been challenged — and that wouldn't benefit the communities near EM sites, he said.

Edwards agreed, saying, "The priorities set the stage for everything else, and they also help us challenge ourselves and keep us from complacency."

EM's 2021 Mission and Priorities are equally ambitious, and the site managers serving on the panel agreed they are ready to meet the priorities head-on.

The panelists also reflected on the unforeseen challenges brought by the pandemic in the past year. They agreed that those challenges provided EM sites valuable lessons learned. Edwards said that COVID-19 taught the sites he manages how to do more with less meetings. That's a lesson that will pay off in the long run and help the sites be more efficient, he said.

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