

FY23 Budget Request Enables Steady, Sustained Cleanup Success



A recent aerial view of the Portsmouth X-326 Process Building demolition. EM's fiscal year 2023 budget request includes funding for the continued teardown of X-326, the first of three massive former gaseous diffusion plants that will be taken down at the Portsmouth Site in Ohio. Photo credit: Donnie Locke.

[EM](#) has requested a fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget of \$7.64 billion, an amount that will enable the program to continue making strong, steady and sustained progress on priorities to clean up legacy nuclear sites now and in the years ahead.

The budget proposal reflects a firm commitment to support remediation activities in communities that historically supported or continue to support nuclear weapons programs and government-sponsored nuclear research. It positions EM for continuing success.

“The FY 2023 budget request proposes key investments that will continue to drive risk reduction and skyline changes across the EM complex, as well as keep the program on track to achieve a step change in how we tackle radioactive tank waste,” EM Senior Advisor William “Ike” White said.

EM’s request builds on past investments, including:

- Advancing startup and commissioning of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste ([DFLAW](#)) liquid waste treatment system at the [Hanford Site](#) in Washington state.
- Infrastructure improvements at the [Waste Isolation Pilot Plant](#) in New Mexico.
- Continuing demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) in New York.
- Shipping another 1.2 million tons of uranium mill tailings from the [Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project](#) in Utah for disposal away from the Colorado River.



- Cleaning up excess facilities at [Oak Ridge National Laboratory](#) and the [Y-12 National Security Complex](#).



EM's fiscal year 2023 budget proposal would allow for a significant infrastructure and modernization campaign at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) that would include continuing construction on the Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System (SSCVS). At left, workers pour a concrete access ramp at the 25,000-square-foot Salt Reduction Building while cranes lift concrete for wall construction on the 55,000-square-foot New Filter Building, right. Together, the two buildings make up the SSCVS that, when finished, will increase airflow in the WIPP underground from 170,000 cubic feet per minute to 540,000 cubic feet per minute.

While progress continues at field sites, the budget request also will support programs that seek to build a talent pipeline to replenish a federal workforce in which more than half will be eligible for retirement in the next decade.

Funding also will support underrepresented communities near EM sites across the country. It will increase engagement and opportunity by expanding the Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program and create the consortium — Minority Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), cybersecurity, and manufacturing — that will build sustainable diversity and inclusion that invests in the workforce today and into the future.

“The request will enable us to further advance the EM mission, maintain national security priorities and support those most impacted by the environmental legacy of the past,” White said.

Budget Proposal Would Enable Signature Skyline Changes to Continue



Workers install platforms to support deactivation crews and cleanout activities in the eight-story Experimental Gas Cooled Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). EM's fiscal year 2023 budget request would continue to advance the EM cleanup mission at Oak Ridge, including continuing cleanup of high priority excess contaminated facilities at ORNL and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Landmark skyline changes would continue across EM sites through key investments proposed in [EM's](#) fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget request, reflecting the Administration's strong commitment to cleaning up the environment in a new era of steady, sustained achievement.

The FY 2023 request prioritizes risk reduction by enabling EM to continue taking down contaminated buildings at sites such as [Portsmouth](#) in Ohio while building new facilities as part of significant infrastructure and modernization campaigns at sites such as the [Waste Isolation Pilot Plant](#) (WIPP) in New Mexico. EM is also committed to continued



improvements in contract and project management, as demonstrated in key projects like the completion of major cleanup at the [East Tennessee Technology Park](#) at [Oak Ridge](#) in 2020.

“EM’s ambitious fiscal year 2023 budget request reflects this Administration’s steadfast support for critical deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) projects and other work central to EM’s vital mission,” said Jay Mullis, EM acting associate principal deputy assistant secretary for regulatory and policy affairs. “This budget request would enable EM to continue sustained progress in skyline changes as we clean up the environmental legacy of the past and help impacted communities look forward to the future.”

Facility D&D makes up 20% of EM’s FY 2023 budget request, supporting projects at sites such as Savannah River Site (SRS), [Hanford](#), Oak Ridge, Portsmouth, [Paducah](#), [Los Alamos](#), the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) and others.



EM’s fiscal year 2023 budget proposal would support demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) in New York.



The FY 2023 budget request supports:

- Demolition of X-326, the first of three massive former gaseous diffusion plants that will be taken down at the Portsmouth Site. Crews have already completed 65% of the X-326 teardown. EM will then pivot to pre-demolition activities in the X-333 building, with the goal of completing demolition of two of the site's process buildings over the next decade. As cleanup progresses toward its end state at Portsmouth, EM will continue to transfer land for economic development, achieving the goal of returning the site to a condition where it can be used to help the community grow and thrive.
- Continued cleanup of excess facilities at Oak Ridge, including the Radiological Development Lab, Bulk Shielding Reactor, and Low-Intensity Test Reactor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the dilapidated East Column Exchange (COLEX) equipment at the Alpha-4 facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex.
- Initiation of D&D of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Ion Beam Facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory site in New Mexico.
- Advancing demolition at the Engine Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly and Test Cell C complexes at the [Nevada National Security Site](#).
- Demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at the **WVDP** in New York. The five-story, 35,000-square-foot Main Plant was constructed in the 1960s as a commercial reprocessing facility to recover reusable plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel. It operated from 1966 to 1972. The project marks the site's most complex demolition since crews knocked down the Vitrification Facility in 2018.
- Teardown of excess facilities at [Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory](#) in California.
- A significant infrastructure and modernization campaign at WIPP so it can increase waste shipments to support cleanup progress and to continue to perform its key role for years to come. This effort includes updating or replacing general plant infrastructure and continuing construction on the Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System and new Utility Shaft.

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