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ECA Bulletin

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Would you like to have stories featured in the next newsletter? Send ideas and photos to NithinA@energycya.org

Energy Communities Alliance Meets With Secretary Chu



A group of representatives of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) met with Secretary of Energy Chu on February 11th in advance of our 2009 ECA Annual Conference to discuss the future of DOE programs and the priorities of our organization and its local government members. The meeting – an early indication of increased openness in the new Administration – provided both Secretary Chu and ECA members the opportunity to establish dialogue through an intimate roundtable discussion on the wide-range of DOE program offices that impact ECA communities.

As the organization of cities and counties that host DOE cleanup sites and national laboratories, ECA welcomed the opportunity to satisfy our long-standing policy of local government and community participation in DOE decision-making. Policy decisions discussed with the Secretary included:

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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- the status and implementation of the Office of Environmental Management's portion of the economic stimulus package,
- the future of nuclear reprocessing and long-term disposal efforts,
- the OMB passback memo on moving NNSA into the Department of Defense,
- and other critical issues of the day.

Local elected officials of ECA were given a glimpse into Secretary Chu's vision for energy policy and the various components of the Department, and in turn, Secretary Chu was provided with a brief introduction into the unique issues faced by local governments and communities that host DOE installations.

"We had a very open and frank discussion with Dr. Chu about DOE programs and ECA priorities," said Mayor Tom Beehan of the City of Oak Ridge, TN. "The one thing that really impressed me was the Secretary's ability to listen to us and ask probing questions. I think that bodes well for finding mutually beneficial solutions to issues that communities face."

In addition to the positive sentiments, there were also mixed reactions in response to Secretary Chu's comments on certain DOE policies like nuclear waste recycling and disposal. But the consensus among all participants is that all policies should be based on sound science, moral and legal obligations, and of course, the public interest.

A copy of ECA priorities provided to Dr. Chu are on the ECA webpage at: www.energyca.org

ECA Annual Conference Brings Together Key Perspectives on the Future of DOE Programs

Congressman Hastings, senior DOE officials, and policy experts joined ECA on February 12th for a day of dialogue at the ECA Annual Conference – *New Leadership in 2009*. With a new Administration and a new Congress, combined with the historic economic crisis facing the nation, the annual meeting was an opportunity to learn how political leadership and DOE plan to move forward and the potential impacts on ECA communities.

Discussions covered environmental management activities, the future of NNSA, and high-level waste disposal. Delivering remarks at the conference were Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA), NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay.

Interactive roundtable discussions where audience members engaged in dialogue with panelists featured the senior DOE officials and Washington policy experts. DOE panelists included Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Shane Johnson; EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget Merle Sykes; Acting Director of Legacy Management David Geiser; and Acting Director of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Christopher Kouts. Non-DOE policy experts included Martin Schneider, Editor-in-Chief of Exchange Monitor Publications; Sean Todd, President of Fox Potomac Resources; Jon Carter, VP for Government Relations at CH2Mhill; and Colin Jones, Congressional Fellow with the Office of Senator Crapo.

In addition to remarks from top DOE leaders and interactive panel discussions, audience members were also greeted

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with a presentation from Phil Niedelski-Eichner on “Things Nuclear at the Nexus of National and Energy Security.”

The ECA meeting highlighted that there is an obvious shift in the Department to focus more on alternative energy projects and to promote energy independence, and DOE’s nuclear portfolio should not see a wholesale makeover due to the importance of the various programs such as environmental cleanup, nuclear energy R&D, and nuclear security. However, the new Administration and new Congress are examining certain important elements such as the future of nuclear deterrence (through the Nuclear Posture Review and the OMB passback memo – see pg. __ for full story) and the future of the Yucca Mountain project (through the appropriations process and the NRC license application).

Because of the timing of the conference, a lot of the discussion was also focused on the \$6 billion in funding that the EM cleanup program will receive through the stimulus package (see related story).

Lane Allgood, President of the Partnership for Science and Technology and a new ECA member, said “I have been to a lot of ECA meetings over the last year and a half, and this one was by far the best. What a great conference.”

Excerpt of Congressman Hastings’ speech:

With a new President, a new Energy Secretary, new appointments to be made at EM, a yet to be passed stimulus bill, unfinished work remaining on this Fiscal Years’ appropriations bills, and work to be started on next year’s budget and appropriations cycle – this is a very important time for our country, but it is also an important time for the cleanup community. While there are several immediate opportunities to impact cleanup budgets, the stimulus bill for example, we must not lose sight of the long-term challenges at our cleanup sites. It’s important that we continue working towards our shared goal of cleaning up these sites as safely, quickly and efficiently as possible. That requires proper predictable funding, strategic planning, and ongoing commitments from Congress, DOE, the sites, and the affected communities.

Complete Speech available at: <http://hastings.house.gov/Read.aspx?ID=1179>

Excerpt of NNSA Administrator D’Agostino’s speech:

...Since many of your communities host sites that comprise our enterprise, I appreciate your past support and look forward to your continuing contributions to our work as we address the challenges of the future. Today, one of our biggest challenges is the absence of a national consensus on the future role of our nuclear deterrent or on the implications of our nuclear posture for U.S. nonproliferation obligations/objectives.... as one component of a broad strategy for a safer world, the United States will continue to maintain a nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future and it is my job in the National Nuclear Security Administration to take care of the warheads that make up the deterrent.... Our labs and plants in your communities will play a critical role in this effort through the world-class technical capabilities they bring to the table... Scientists and engineers in the National Nuclear Security Administration have developed and sustained a unique set of skills and capabilities that respond to a much broader array of nuclear security needs beyond nuclear weapons.

Complete Speech available at: <http://nnsa.energy.gov/news/2284.htm>



NEW ECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED

The new Executive Committee of the Energy Communities Alliance was elected during a Board of Directors Meeting held on February 13th in conjunction with the ECA Annual Conference. The ECA Executive Committee – a governing board of local elected officials – sets the priorities and oversees the management of ECA activities. This year, the committee is:

Chair	Robert Thompson, Council Member, City of Richland, WA (Hanford Reservation, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)
Vice Chair	Seth Beal, Commissioner, Butte County, ID (Idaho National Laboratory)
Treasurer	Michael Wismer, Council Vice Chair, Las Alamos County, NM (Los Alamos National Laboratory)
Secretary	Chuck Smith, Council Member, Aiken County, SC (Savannah River Site, Savannah River National Laboratory)
Past Chair	Lorraine Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Arvada, CO (Rocky Flats Stewardship Council)

ECA would like to thank outgoing Past Chair Mayor Kevin Phillips and outgoing Treasurer Frances Berting for their leadership and hard work for local communities over the past several years.

For a look at our organizations' priorities for the year ahead, see our *ECA Priorities for the Obama Administration* document located at: <http://www.energyca.org/PDF/ECATransition2009.pdf>

Beneficial Reuse of DOE Property is Important to Local Communities



The recently developed EM paper on footprint reduction and energy parks, language contained in the currently pending FY09 omnibus spending bill, and Secretary Chu's comments at his confirmation hearing, all seem to signal a reemergence of

emphasis on beneficial reuse of DOE lands, a long-standing goal of ECA communities.

An EM concept paper titled *Reduction of EM Footprint and Establishment of Energy Parks*. (See, www.energyca.org for a complete copy) was drafted in December '08 and has been floated on the Hill as a strategic opportunity for EM to "achieve about ninety percent footprint reduction for a total reduction from 900 square miles to 135 square miles by 2015 or earlier" and in the process, create jobs in the short term. As a result, the paper argues that "footprint reduction makes large tracts of EM land and infrastructure available to support new beneficial site missions, such as, the establishment of Energy Parks that will sustain local and regional economies."

Now that the economic stimulus package has become law, ECA communities are hopeful that the \$6 billion in funding will assist DOE in implementing its footprint reduction plan so that large tracts of land can be beneficially reused for long-term community economic development purposes and to meet the future needs of the nation.

Beneficial Reuse in General

During a House Armed Services Committee hearing on February 24, Congressman Ortiz (D-TX; Chair of the Readiness Subcommittee) spoke about the Department of Defense's need to cleanup closed bases and allow communities the opportunity to redevelop the land for economic development purposes.

"It is time the Department [of Defense] lives up to their implied covenant with existing military installations and provides the investment to restore environmentally damaged lands," said Chairman Ortiz before a panel of senior military officials. "We need to allow communities the opportunity to redevelop and restore a vibrant tax base that truly allows economic redevelopment. Prompt disposal and redevelopment should be at the core of any excess land decision process."

There are often various parallels between DOE's environmental cleanup sites and the Department of Defense's base closure sites, but environmental cleanup/property disposal is perhaps the strongest connection between the two federal agencies. Congressman Ortiz's remarks should remind not only DOD, but also DOE of the importance of community-based economic development once parcels of land are cleaned up to an acceptable level. Perhaps, DOE's new Energy Parks Initiative is recognition of just that.

The Energy Parks Initiative

Although likely to change through dialogue with other DOE offices and stakeholders like ECA, the Energy Parks Initiative (EPI) as initially rolled out by the Office of Environmental Management during the presidential transition process would call for the following:

"The initiative involves four phases: (1) initial evaluation of key assets for which accelerated completion of the EM mission is feasible, and in collaboration with state and local stakeholders, define the boundaries for opportunity; (2) optimizing the value of the assets in relation to opportunity; (3) enabling development by a third party; and (4) participation, as appropriate, in achieving performance objectives. An investment of about \$25 million would initiate phases (1), (2) and (3). The approach emphasizes early success, enabling the initiation of the process and public visibility within six months of Secretarial commitment, such as to secure industry commitment to Energy Parks at a DOE site. The Department will explore alternative re-use opportunities with the local communities."

ECA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE SRS ENERGY PARK INITIATIVE

In its planning for economic growth, SRSCRO has recognized that the Savannah River Site has many unique assets which can be leveraged for regional economic development without impacting the Site's ability to meet important Federal missions. One of the most exciting concepts for economic growth involves creation of a new Energy Park on the Savannah River Site. The Park would include innovative technological demonstration projects designed to push the frontiers of knowledge, create new jobs, and solidify the region's long-term position as a leader in new technology development.

Among the projects envisioned for the Energy Park are a demonstration of next generation nuclear power reactors, including nuclear powered thermo-chemical production of hydrogen, construction of a research and training reactor and increased electric power production from nuclear reactors.

...The Energy Park would capitalize on the substantial and unique assets afforded by the Savannah River Site, including a large land mass remote from the population, fixed site boundaries with little possibility of encroachment, a well-characterized land mass meeting most siting requirements and excellent infrastructure -- roads, rail, water and power. The Site's assets as an Energy Park are further enhanced by the ready availability of technical expertise and services and its proximity to large and growing energy markets.

ECA to Host Peer Exchange on Footprint Reduction & Energy Parks in April

When: April 23-24 (Full-Day on the 23rd, Half-Day on the 24th)
 Who: ECA Local Governments and Community Reuse Organizations
 Presenters: Mark Gilbertson (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Technology, DOE Office of Environmental Management)

At the meeting participants will focus on several aspects of the initiative and will provide each community with an opportunity to share ideas and learn about the Department's current plans for the project. ECA has confirmed EM participation in the meeting.



Legislative Update

DOE To Speed Dispersal Of Economic Recovery Funds

Secretary of Energy Steven Chu recently announced a sweeping reorganization of the Department of Energy's dispersal of direct loans, loan guarantees and funding contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law on February 17th by President Obama. The goal of the restructuring is to distribute the funds more quickly and expedite investments in a new energy economy. Changes include:

- Rolling appraisal of applications;
- Accelerated loan underwriting by outside partners;
- Streamlining and simplifying loan application forms and paperwork;
- Offering applicants the opportunity to pay up-front fees as part of the loan at closing (where applicable);
- Additional staff and resources to process applications;
- Working with industry to attract good projects into the loan guarantee program and helping them navigate the process; and
- Introducing a website to provide increased transparency in processes and results, as well as information to help applicants through the process.

With these changes, DOE expects it will be able to disperse 70 percent of the investment from the American Recovery and Reinvestment plan by the end

of next year. More specifically, DOE estimates it will begin offering loan guarantees under its previous loan guarantee program by late April or early May, and to begin offering loan guarantees under the new legislation by early summer.

Nearly 10 percent of the total \$787.2 billion economic stimulus package is designated to fund and provide tax credits for green-energy related projects, including renewables, energy efficiency, transmission and weatherization. These programs will promote job creation, clean energy development and energy independence.

While DOE's Office of Environmental Management received \$6 billion (*see*, story below), and the Office of Science received \$2 billion, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy received \$16.8 billion, a nearly tenfold increase over fiscal year 2008. While the bulk of the new EERE funding is supporting direct grants and rebates, \$2.5 billion will support EERE's applied research, development, and deployment activities. There are also a number of provisions that aim specifically to provide funding to local governments to invest in greater efficiency and reduce energy usage.

All applicable provisions in the measure are designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles.

A key issue often asked is how an entity will obtain a contract, grant or loan. On February 18, 2009 OMB released guidance on agency requirements for contracts, grants and loans which are set forth below and can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_fy2009/m09-10.pdf

For **contract** awards, agencies must:

- In addition to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 5 requirements for pre-solicitation and award notices, publish pre-solicitation and award notices of orders under task and delivery order contracts on FedBizOpps;
- Include special formatting for pre-solicitation and award notices in FedBizOpps and award reporting in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) to distinguish Recovery Act actions;
- Include terms and conditions in contract documents necessary for effective implementation of Recovery Act data collection and accountability requirements; and
- For each government contract or order (or modification to an existing contract or order) over \$500,000, agencies should provide a summary of the contract or order (or modification to an existing contract or order), including a description of the required products and services, which will be made available publicly and linked to Recovery.gov;

For **grant and cooperative agreement awards**, agencies must:

- Request an expedited “Recovery Act” Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for new Recovery Act programs or existing programs for which the Recovery Act provides for compliance requirements that are significantly different for the Recovery Act funding;
- Within twenty (20) days after enactment of the Recovery Act, agencies shall post funding opportunity announcements (i.e., “synopses”) to Grants.gov;
- Within thirty (30) days of enactment, the Grants.gov synopsis shall link to the full announcement on the agency website;
- Include prominent labels and tags in funding opportunity synopses, full funding opportunity announcements, and award notices that clearly distinguish them as “Recovery Act” actions; and

- Begin outreach efforts with potential applicants to create or update their profiles in Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

For **loans and loan guarantees**, agencies must:

- Request an expedited “Recovery Act” Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for new Recovery Act programs, or existing programs for which the Recovery Act provides for compliance requirements that are significantly different for the Recovery Act funding; modify existing CFDA program descriptions to reflect Recovery Act authorities, financial information, etc.;
- Publish funding opportunity notices and/or funding allocation information on GovLoans.gov; and
- Begin outreach efforts with potential applicants to create or update their profiles in Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and Central Contractor Registration (CCR).

A summary of the key energy-related provisions from the Stimulus Act can be found on the ECA webpage at: www.energyca.org

A Breakdown of Funding Under the Stimulus Act for Environmental Cleanup of DOE Sites

ECA has reported extensively on the economic stimulus package, but now that we know that the final enacted law contains \$6 billion for environmental cleanup activities, we are getting questions on potential funding breakdowns and concerns about implementation.

Funding Breakdown

The Office of Environmental Management has not finalized its decisions on how funding will be distributed among the various cleanup sites, and has said that a final breakdown could be available as early as next week, according to the SRS site office. However, ECA learned that EM provided a table in early February to Congressional members and staff based on the Senate number of \$6.4 billion. See below:

EM FUNDING BREAKDOWN UNDER THE STIMULUS

Site	Investment (\$M)	Total Jobs Created	Potential Life Cycle Cost Savings (\$M)
Argonne	\$100	270	\$100
Brookhaven	\$30	120	\$100
ETEC	\$40	100	
Hanford	\$2,036	4,414	\$2,786
Idaho	\$465	610	\$350
Los Alamos	\$225	560	\$200
Moab	\$110	160	\$100
Nevada Test Site	\$80	208	\$150
Oak Ridge	\$1,039	2,710	\$1,060
Portsmouth	\$60	250	\$250
Savannah River	\$1,900	3,000	\$2,000
Multiple	\$70		
West Valley	\$75	100	\$200
WIPP	\$170	500	\$1,500
Totals	\$6,400	13,002	\$8,796
Defense	\$5,527		
Non-Defense	\$483		
UE D&D	\$390		

We were told that the table was created by DOE and was based on the Senate mark of \$6.4 billion. The final legislation, however, contains \$6 billion for EM so numbers are currently being adjusted by DOE HQ. According to sources, the final breakdowns will be based on the above table but will include an across the board percentage reduction to get from \$6.4 to \$6 billion (the enacted level).

Implementation

DOE is working quickly to try to set the guidelines for implementation of stimulus funding. The stimulus story above focuses more on the alternative energy and energy efficiency funding in the stimulus, but reflects that the new Secretary is committed to making the process work. On the cleanup side, during ECA's meeting with Secretary Chu on Feb 11 (see related story), he indicated that he was starting plan for the infusion of cleanup funds and was starting to working on the human resource side of the house to ensure that cleanup projects can be funded and implemented.

To that end, sources say that DOE HQ held a conference call on February 26 with site managers and key contractors to get the ball rolling on stimulus

implementation. A follow-up meeting in early March in Washington, DC is scheduled, according to the source.

As we hear more about EM's stimulus implementation efforts, we will provide you with additional updates. Feel free to contact ECA at 202.828.2423 with any questions.

Congress Consider FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

The House passed a \$410 billion fiscal 2009 appropriations package (HR 1105) that “works in harmony” with the economic recovery package signed into law by President Obama earlier this month. The omnibus provides about \$31 billion, or 8 percent, more than the total funding in the fiscal 2008 versions of the nine bills in the package. The agencies covered are currently being funded mostly at fiscal 2008 levels through a continuing resolution that expires March 6.

Under the omnibus measure, the Department of Energy would receive \$27 billion, \$2.5 billion above FY2008 funding levels, including:

- **\$6.5 billion for the Office of Environmental Management (EM)** to clean up contamination from 60 years of nuclear weapons manufacturing and cancelled projects for handling spent nuclear fuel. DOE has outstanding commitments to clean-up 22 sites in 13 states. The funding level is \$301 million above FY08 levels.
- **\$6.4 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)**, the same as in 2008, for the nation’s nuclear weapons. \$1.5 billion is designated to protect the American people by reducing the risk that more countries will acquire nuclear weapons and to improve our ability to prevent nuclear and radiological materials and weapons from being smuggled into the U.S. This is a funding increase of \$146 million above 2008.
- **\$288 million for the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM)** for defense and non-defense nuclear waste disposal.
- **\$45 million for the Integrated University Program** a newly created collaboration among DOE, NNSA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **\$185 million for the Office of Legacy Management (LM)**
- **\$4.8 billion for the Office of Science (SC)** for basic scientific research critical to addressing long-term energy needs. This provides for 2,600 more research personnel. The funding level is \$755 million above 2008.
- **\$765 million for Advanced Energy Research** for basic research to tackle major barriers to advancing energy generation and storage such as fusion energy and advanced batteries. This funding includes \$100 million for 20-30 Energy Frontier Research Centers to perform breakthrough energy research, and \$15 million to establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E). The stated goal of ARPA-E is to enhance the Nation’s economic and energy security through research and development of technologies that reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources, improve energy efficiency of the U.S. economy, reduce the impact of the energy sector on the environment, and ensure the U.S. leadership in developing energy technologies.
- **\$2.2 billion for New Tools and Facilities for Energy Research**, a \$389 million increase from 2008, for labs and equipment necessary to perform the next generation of advanced energy research.
- **\$178 million for Climate Change Research** including advanced computer modeling. The funding level is \$41 million above 2008.

The **Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)** was zeroed out as it “undermines our nation’s nuclear non-proliferation policy,” according to the House Appropriations summary. Also zeroed out was funding for the **Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW)**.

The bill now moves to the Senate where amendments targeting spending and earmarks may be offered. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has indicated that he anticipates enough Republican votes to invoke cloture on the bill and move forward.

President Obama Releases Budget Blueprint for FY 2010



The Obama Administration just released its budget blueprint for Fiscal Year 2010, which contains top-line budget numbers for federal agencies. Overall, the blueprint indicates an effort to reduce the deficit and signals a shift from the policies of the previous administration. With regard to environmental cleanup, nuclear waste disposal, and non-proliferation activities at DOE, the Obama Administration states that its budget request does the following:

Focuses on the Cleanup and Management of Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Materials.

The Budget focuses on improved performance and accountability for the environ-

mental legacy of the Nation's nuclear weapons program by addressing health and safety risks across the country. The Yucca Mountain program will be scaled back to those costs necessary to answer inquiries from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, while the Administration devises a new strategy toward nuclear waste disposal.

Reduces Proliferation Risks and Ensures the Safety, Security, and Reliability of the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Without Nuclear Testing. The Budget supports increased efforts to secure and dispose of nuclear material and invests in innovative science and technology to detect and deter nuclear smuggling and the development of weapons of mass destruction programs. Development work on the reliable replacement Warhead will cease, while continued work to improve the nuclear stockpile's safety, security, and reliability is enhanced with more expansive life extension programs.

The complete preview of DOE programs is available at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_Energy.pdf

All other FY2010 budget documents are available at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>

It is expected that the President will submit his detailed budget justification in the late March/early April timeframe (as has been the case in previous Presidential transition years)



Update On Yucca Mountain

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently announced its approval of a rule for allowable radiation levels at the proposed nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain for up to 1 million years. The NRC already adopted the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule of limiting the dose of radiation to 15 millirem for the first 10,000 years after disposal. The latest decision adopts the EPA's limit of 100 millirem from 10,001 years to 1 million years.

The announcement comes as the future of Yucca Mountain looks doubtful. U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu has confirmed President Obama's opposition to Yucca Mountain, but he has not committed to withdrawing the licensing application currently before the NRC - a move that would effectively kill the project.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, a comprehensive national program for the safe, permanent disposal of highly radioactive wastes was established and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was directed to study suitable sites for a geologic repository. Because that law remains in effect, the administration could face legal action if it withdraws the licensing application for Yucca Mountain without having any alternative to present.

One idea that has been raised is the establishment of a Blue Ribbon commission to study alternatives to Yucca Mountain and nuclear fuel management. The Nuclear Energy Industry (NEI), the government

affairs arm of the nuclear energy and technologies industry, endorses the concept. At a recent meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), an NEI official discussed a proposal to continue pursuing a license to build the Yucca repository while a study was being conducted over a 12- to 24-month period. NEI envisions the panel could include governors, regulators, industry executives, environmentalists and others.

Meanwhile, contractors for the Yucca Mountain repository are cutting jobs. According to a DOE spokesman, the new prime contractor, USA Repository Service, has notified employees that it plans to cut 500 of its roughly 600 contract workers. Sandia National Laboratory is also expected to reduce the number of people it has working on the project.

Federal officials say the latest round of job cuts will bring the staff to fewer than 900, from a high of about 2,750 three years ago.

SRS Community Reuse Organization Examines Workforce Challenges In A Nuclear Renaissance

In a new white paper, the SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) examines the positive impact a nuclear renaissance can have on the Central Savannah River Area (which includes regions in South Carolina and Georgia) and highlights the challenge of ensuring there is an adequately trained workforce to meet growing demand for nuclear energy.

According to the report, about half the nuclear industry's work force will be eligible to retire during the next 10 years, leaving operators at existing nuclear plants to recruit about 2,000 workers a year within the next decade and 3,000 a year in the period that follows. Even more qualified workers will be needed as utilities pursue plans to build additional nuclear reactors - 20 applications (for more than 30 units) have already been filed at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

In response to the threatened workforce shortage, and

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in the interest of potentially creating more than 65,000 nuclear-related jobs in Georgia and South Carolina in the next 20 years - the SRSCRO adopted four key positions:

1. **Identify stakeholders and parties of influence in the region** to develop a strategy to address the workforce challenge. Stakeholders will include relevant private industry, governmental and educational institutions along with appropriate economic development entities and elected officials.
2. **Convene a regional workforce summit** to (1) identify the demographics of the current workforce; (2) to determine the skills needed in the next decade; (3) to assess the training and availability of current workers to fill future needs; (4) to identify additional training needs; (5) to develop regional collaborations to provide training; (6) to identify federal funding sources for energy-related workforce development; and (7) to open a continuing dialogue among nuclear employers, educational institutions, local economic development entities, local and state elected officials and others who can help identify needs and resources, as well as influence implementation of a successful nuclear workforce development program.
3. **Identify funding sources and aggressively pursue state and federal support** along with funds from the private sector to go towards long-term workforce development initiatives.
4. **Increase public awareness about workforce needs** and educate the public about the economic development benefits of the nuclear renaissance; to communicate the benefits of a career in nuclear energy, and to describe the training requirements and resources available in the region.

The SRSCRO Board of Directors has voted to approve \$50,000 to initiate the strategy and the regional workforce summit is tentatively scheduled for late spring/early summer 2009.

NNSA Movement to DOD Opposed by Local Governments and Congressional Lawmakers

A memo from the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) on potential reorganization of the National Nuclear Security Administration (“NNSA”) was leaked to the press and on Capitol Hill early this month. The “passback memo” requires an “organizational assessment of NNSA” and states that “DOD and DOE, to include NNSA, are being requested in their respective passbacks to assess the costs and benefits of transferring budget and management of NNSA or its components to DOD and elsewhere, as appropriate, beginning in FY 2011.” The memo goes on to require a final report to OMB by September 30, 2009.

In response, many lawmakers have been vocal in their criticism of such an effort. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) released statements immediately following the leak. “I strongly disagree with the proposal,” said Sen. Tom Udall. “For decades, these laboratories have provided world-class research and development, contributing not only to our national security but to countless innovations that have benefited our economy and our well-being,” he said. “Moving the labs ... would change the fundamental

mission and purpose of the labs, and would discourage exactly the kind of science that is now most needed.”

Sen. Jeff Bingaman reminded folks that this debate has occurred before and should not be reopened. “The idea of whether the military or civilians would be stewards of our nuclear stockpile was debated as far back as 1946,” said Sen. Bingaman. “It was decided then that it was best for civilians to have that control. I believe it remains the right decision today, and several blue-ribbon panels over the past 20 years bear that out,” he said.

In ECA’s meeting with Secretary Chu on February 11th, ECA’s Executive Committee discussed the OMB memo and while Chu said he did not mind taking a “fresh look,” he shared concerns about the memo and said that we would hope the parameters and goals of the report would be expanded. ECA expressed its concern about the proposal.

A shift to military oversight “would be very dramatic,” Robert S. Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council told the Marine Corps Times.

Media Roundup: ECA In the News

Savannah River Site Could Get Up to 3000 New Jobs

Georgia Public Broadcasting February 27, 2009

The economic stimulus could bring employment to the nuclear industry. The stimulus would provide nearly \$2 billion and up to 3000 jobs to the Savannah River Site, which is near Augusta. "These are shovel ready jobs that have been identified and hopefully will make a big difference not only for environmental management in the area, but also create new jobs for the area," says Seth Kirshenberg, director of the Energy Communities Alliance, a national organization of counties and cities where sites operated by the U.S. Department of Energy are located. However, there's been no official announcement yet. The DOE will get about \$6 billion in federal funds for environmental clean up at its sites. The Savannah River Site refined nuclear materials for weapons during the Cold War. But employment numbers there dropped afterward, ever since the site's mission changed to cleanup efforts.

<http://gpbnews.blogspot.com/2009/02/savannah-river-site-could-get-up-to.html>

Stimulus may bring 3,000 jobs to SRS

Augusta Chronicle February 26, 2009

...The breakdown, obtained Wednesday by The Augusta Chronicle, was distributed this week to selected officials with the Energy Communities Alliance, a national nonprofit organization of local governments and economic development groups that are near nuclear weapon sites. "We're all kind of waiting for more details," said Rick McLeod, executive director of the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization, a local affiliate of the alliance. ... Representatives of the Energy Department at SRS and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions -- the site's primary contractor -- would neither confirm nor deny the numbers, saying only that a "comprehensive" announcement about the recovery program's effect on SRS will be made sometime next week.

http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/02/26/met_512772.shtml

Stimulus Boost May Limit EPA Programs' Prospects in FY10 Budget

Environmental Policy Alert February 25, 2009

...Several sources say that the Superfund, brownfields, and water SRFs all continue to have significant funding needs following years of EPA budget cuts by the Bush administration, emphasizing that the stimulus is only a small step toward restoring the cuts and pressuring Congress to continue focus funding in these areas. Some lawmakers appear receptive to this argument, including Republicans who voted against the stimulus. Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA), who joined all members of the House GOP in opposing the stimulus, said during the Feb. 12 annual meeting of the Energy Communities Alliance that, while he supports increased funding for nuclear cleanups included in the stimulus package, he wants sustained funding for nuclear cleanups in upcoming appropriations bills. "It would be extremely unfair and harmful if increased stimulus funding for cleanup was later used as an excuse to reduce budget requests and annual appropriations," Hastings said.

http://environmentalnewsstand.com/epanewsstand_nletters.asp?NLN=policyalert (subscription required)

Mayor: Stimulus 'huge for Oak Ridge'

The Oak Ridger Feb 20, 2009

The federal stimulus package signed into law by President Barack Obama this week includes money for environmental cleanup projects in Oak Ridge, Mayor Tom Beehan said. "The stimulus package is

going to be huge for Oak Ridge," said Beehan, who was in Washington, D.C., last week for an Energy Communities Alliance board meeting. "The cleanup (work) is right at the top of the list of things to be funded." However, the mayor said he did not know how much money might be included for Oak Ridge projects....He said he spent most of one day last week meeting with Tennessee's congressional representatives and also met with the new U.S. energy secretary, Steven Chu. The mayor said he raised issues of concern or interest to Oak Ridge, including potential land transfers from DOE to the city, and third-party financing of buildings at Y-12 and ORNL. The potential land transfers, which include the American Museum of Science and Energy property, and a parcel known as ED-6, can help the city, and some land can be used for residential development, Beehan said.

<http://www.oakridger.com/news/x598679734/Mayor-Stimulus-huge-for-Oak-Ridge>

Councilor: Stimulus package will benefit area

Carlsbad Current-Argus February 17, 2009

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant — and its surrounding community — stands to benefit from funds approved in the recently passed Economic Stimulus Package, a Carlsbad official said. Last week, Carlsbad city councilor Jeff Diamond and other members of the Energy Communities Alliance met with newly confirmed Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to present a list of goals and recommendations to the Obama administration. The ECA is a national association of communities like Carlsbad that host or surround Department of Energy facilities whose aim is to work with the DOE to share information, assist in setting policy and advocate community interests. Diamond said the final version of the stimulus package will result in hundreds of millions of dollars for WIPP. "In the original House version of the economic stimulus package only \$500 million was marked for environmental management in the nuclear complex, which includes the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad," he said.

http://www.currentargus.com/ci_11718921

Report on challenges of cleanup program greets Chu on first day at DOE helm

Inside Energy with Federal Lands January 26, 2009

....DOE has planned for one repository, at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, but that plan has faced immense opposition from powerful lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat and the most powerful senator in Congress, has vowed to stop Yucca from ever being built in his home state. That concerns some officials who represent cities and towns near DOE weapons sites. The Energy Communities Alliance, a group representing such communities, said not building Yucca could jeopardize the ability of DOE sites around the country to clean up their waste. Nithin Akuthota, ECA's deputy director, noted that regulatory agreements at the Savannah River, Hanford and Idaho sites include timelines for the removal of high-level waste. Without a repository like Yucca, DOE could be forced to break those agreements, Akuthota said... "The whole reason the repository is necessary is because of the nature of the contaminants," Akuthota said. "They are high-level waste and hazardous materials. And because of that, they are supposed to be destined for a scientifically sound repository."

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/Newsletters%20&%20Reports/Inside%20Energy/> (subscription required)

Upcoming Events

- **March/April**—New President Submits Detailed FY2010 Budget Request and Justification
- **April 23-24**—ECA Peer Exchange on the EM Footprint Reduction Plan and Energy Parks Initiative
- **June**—ECA Peer Exchange on Nuclear Workforce Development (dates and location TBD)
- **August**—ECA Peer Exchange on Technology Transfer (dates and location TBD)
- **Fall**—Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE, ECA, NGA, NAAG, ECOS, STGWG, and NCSL
- **Winter**—ECA Peer Exchange (TBD)

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Bulletin

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Thank you to the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Office for their support of the ECA Bulletin through cooperative agreement No. DE-FC02-02AL67852



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