

ECA ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE BULLETIN

Volume 42 Issue 42

<http://www.energyca.org>

March 2003

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY SIGNS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WITH ECA

On March 7, 2003 at the ECA Annual Conference, Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow signed a Statement of Principles outlining the relationship between DOE and local governments. The statement was signed by Deputy Secretary McSlarrow and the ECA Executive Board.

DOE and local governments both recognize that local governments adjacent to and impacted by DOE facilities are important advisors to the DOE decision-making process and offer important insights regarding environmental, socioeconomic, and other community impacts of DOE. The seven principles are listed on page 10.



Pictured from left to right are: Mayor Kevin Phillips, Councilor Sam Dixon, Councilmember Lorraine Anderson, Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow, Mayor Bob Thompson, Councilmember Jerry Kuhaida, and Mayor Dick Church.

To view the full statement with signatures, go to <http://www.energyca.org/PDF/Statement.pdf>.

ECA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003 A NEW ERA FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES

On March 5-7, 2003 ECA held its 2003 Annual Conference "A New Era for Energy Communities" in Washington, DC. Distinguished speakers included Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary of Environment, Safety and Health Beverly Cook, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA) and key Congressional staff.

The conference was an overall success in bringing together decision makers to discuss key issues that face DOE, the Administration and Congress with ECA members and other communities affected by DOE activities. **Continued on page 3**

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Federal Register Notices • Calendar of Events**

NEWLY ELECTED ECA 2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD

At the ECA Board Meeting on March 5, 2003, board members elected the following officers to serve as the ECA Executive Board:

Chair:

Mayor Bob Thompson
Richland, WA

Vice Chair:

Mayor Kevin Phillips
Caliente, NV

Treasurer:

Councilmember Lorraine Anderson
Arvada, CO

Secretary:

Mayor Pro-Tem Bob Murray
Carlsbad, NM

Immediate Past Chair:

Councilman Jerry Kuhaida
Oak Ridge, TN

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DOE OFFICIALS ON THE HILL

Since the Administration released its FY 2004 budget request last month, top-level DOE officials have been called to testify before the House and Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittees and the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the DOE budget for FY 2004. To view the prepared statements of DOE officials that have testified before Congress, visit DOE's press room with posted statements at: <http://www.energy.gov/HQDocs/testimony/hqtestimony.html>.

Also, ECA's e-mail list serve provides weekly notification of hearings of interest and links to prepared statements from hearing witnesses. If you would to receive useful information like this and much more, e-mail server@energyca.org to subscribe.

FY 2004 BUDGET RESOLUTION

The House and Senate both passed versions of an FY 04 Budget Resolution earlier this month (H. Con. Res. 95 and S. Con. Res. 23). The two resolutions are on schedule for Conference Committee, to work out the differences in funding levels between the House and Senate versions.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR FY 03

President Bush has proposed a \$74.7 billion emergency funding request for the war with Iraq, for defense and homeland security purposes to Congress. The proposal includes more than \$3 billion for relief and reconstruction of Iraq, \$5 billion for additional foreign aid and another \$4 billion for homeland security.

Of the \$4 billion - \$3.5 billion would be for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the other \$500 million for the Department of Justice and FBI domestic security operations. Within the request for DHS, \$2 billion would be directed towards "first responders." The \$2 billion would come in the form of grants from DHS, which would be given to the states, and then directed to local governments.

The \$2 billion would be divided into the following categories: \$1.5 billion for training, equipment, and planning, \$450 million would be for overtime pay and other costs to increase security at critical infrastructures, and \$50 million for protection of major metropolitan areas that could be at high risk for terrorism.

Congressional leaders hope to move this measure quickly, anticipating completion on the supplemental spending measure by the April 11 Congressional recess.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS!

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge recently announced that nearly \$600 million is available to States and Territories to assist state and local public safety and law enforcement personnel to prevent, prepare and respond to terrorism. Application forms are available at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm>.

States will have until April 22, 2003 to complete and submit the applications. Once complete, the applications will be reviewed, and the applicant will be notified within seven days, and approved funds will be available within the following three weeks. The funds are from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, within the Office of Homeland Security.

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE (ECA) BULLETIN.

1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20036 <http://www.energyca.org>

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Thank you to the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Division for their support of the ECA Bulletin through cooperative agreement No. DE-FC04-02A167852

**ECA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003:
A NEW ERA FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES**
Continued from page 1

Kyle McSlarrow, Deputy Secretary of Energy

Deputy Secretary McSlarrow outlined the present and future missions of DOE, highlighting current program initiatives and changes taking place across the Department. He discussed the Administration's and the Department's commitment to the cleanup of DOE sites across the complex. Deputy Secretary McSlarrow highlighted the Energy Secretary's appointment of Jessie Roberson and Robert Card to top DOE positions as a way of promoting the success of operations at the Rocky Flats site and an attempt to use that success as a template for DOE operations complex-wide. He also focused on worker and community transition and the proposed Office of Legacy Management and stated that the Department was looking at how the cleanup and legacy management missions can work together successfully.

After speaking, Deputy Secretary McSlarrow signed a Statement of Principles with ECA, outlining the relationship between DOE and local governments. See page 10 for a list of the seven principles agreed to by DOE and ECA.

Jessie Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Assistant Secretary Roberson provided an update on the status of the EM program with an emphasis on the FY'04 budget. Assistant Secretary Roberson stated, "I think the FY'04 budget provides an excellent framework to talk. Not only numbers, but also more importantly, the changes being made in the EM Program and the progress achieved to date. To update you on actions we have taken leading up to the FY'04 budget request and where that budget will take the program." Assistant Secretary Roberson explained how the FY'04 budget request can be viewed as "an instrument of change":

- 1) The FY'04 budget request is the first budget that fully reflects the initiatives undertaken by this Administration to transform and revitalize the cleanup of the former nuclear weapons complex.
- 2) This budget uses a new budget structure developed as one of the management reforms that came from the Top-to-Bottom review. This new structure supports integration of performance and budget, which is crucial to our focus on completion and real risk reduction.
- 3) Another finding of the Top-to-Bottom review is that EM needs to focus on its core mission. The budget helps move us in that direction while at the same time demonstrating our commitment to the need for Long-term Stewardship, proposing the office be realigned in a new Office of Legacy Management.

"The Office of Environmental Management is a national program. Under this Administration it is a new program. Re-thought; redesigned; and I hope rejuvenated.

But its success still depends, in no small measure, on the cooperation and support, of the states and local communities who neighbor our sites and the support of the officials and citizens of the community who are, after all, the people most affected by the risks present."

Assistant Secretary Roberson stated in her closing remarks, "The Office of Environmental Management is a national program. Under this Administration it is a new program. Rethought; redesigned; and I hope rejuvenated. But its success still depends, in no small measure, on the cooperation and support, of the states and local communities who neighbor our sites. And the support of the officials and citizens of the community who are, after all, the people most affected by the risks present. From the very beginning of my service in EM, I have known how important that support of local communities can be. I have felt from the very start of my tenure that I have had your support and appreciate it."

To view Assistant Secretary Roberson's presentation in full go to: <http://www.energyca.org/RobersonSpring03.htm>.

Linton Brooks, Administrator (Acting), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Ambassador Brooks discussed the present and future state of NNSA. He emphasized the importance of the need to work with and listen to local governments in the NNSA decision-making process, especially with regard to nuclear nonproliferation and stockpile stewardship.

Ambassador Brooks stated, "I hope that we can continue to be partners, we have to be partners. Without community involvement, I cannot do my job. The Secretary, the Department and NNSA are all committed to working with the communities."

The Ambassador also emphasized the importance of the Nuclear Posture Review and the NNSA's Infrastructure Initiative and outlined NNSA's four part program for dealing with nuclear materials. In response to a question regarding testing at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), Ambassador Brooks told Conference Participants that sub-critical testing at the NTS is necessary, but that a resumption of new tests is not underway.

"I hope that we can continue to be partners, we have to be partners. Without community involvement, I cannot do my job. The Secretary, the Department and NNSA are all committed to working with the communities."

DOE REQUEST FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAND USE PLANS

DOE is currently conducting a project entitled, "A Cleanup Program Driven by Risk-Based End States."

An important element of this study is determining how on-site planning at DOE facilities is integrated with local nearby community planning programs. DOE would greatly appreciate knowing the extent and availability of local community land use plans in the vicinity of DOE facilities.

If you can provide copies of these land use plans or know where copies can be obtained, please notify John Stewart of DOE at (301) 903-7137 or by e-mail at john.stewart@em.doe.gov.

Beverly Cook, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H)

Assistant Secretary Cook remarked that all changes that are taking place within the ES&H Office are a result of the Presidential Management Agenda, focusing on reforming and streamlining its management and performance activities. Assistant Secretary Cook provided an update on the Energy Employees Compensation Occupational Illness Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). She acknowledged that only six claims have been fully processed, yet noted that they are working to expedite the process.

Michael Owen, Director, Office of Worker and Community Transition

Mr. Owen presented the plans for the proposed Office of Legacy Management. The Office of Legacy Management would focus on the following functions: land management, environmental surveillance and maintenance, record keeping, and the benefits due to contract workers associated with former nuclear weapons production sites. Mr. Owen commented that a separate Legacy Management program would allow the EM program to focus on clean-up at DOE's sites. He also said that establishing a separate office for Legacy Management will increase visibility and accountability for these functions. The FY 2004 costs for Legacy Management would be \$48 million. This represents an overall 6% increase over FY 2003 and a 16% increase in long-term stewardship. The costs of long-term surveillance and maintenance will only increase as sites begin to close or remediation is complete. Costs will also increase for post closure benefits for workers. Mr. Owen commented, "The costs are a long-term responsibility of the Department." Mike Owen's presentation can be found on ECA's website at: <http://www.energyca.org/PDF/OwenSpring03.pdf>.

DOE Issue Forum

Rick Arkin, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management, provided comment on the integration of DOE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Mr. Arkin currently works for both Departments, and is committed to the increased coordination efforts with local communities, DOE and DHS.

Karen Guevera, Acting Director of DOE's Office of Technical Program Integration, provided participants with an overview of what is happening within the Office of Integration and Disposition. Ms. Guevera stated that the FY' 04 budget places an emphasis on EM's approach to accelerated risk reduction and cleanup completion. Ms. Guevera also touched upon the outlook for program activities within EM for the coming year.

Ms. Guevera noted that program activities will focus upon risk reduction, rather than risk management, implementing baselines, and working with affected communities to make accelerated cleanup a reality. To view Ms. Guevera's presentation, visit <http://www.energyca.org/meetings.htm>.

Congressional Meeting on the Hill

The Congressional Meeting on the Hill consisted of two panels and a keynote address from Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). The first panel of Congressional staff included: Helen Hardin, Chief of Staff, Congressman Zach Wamp (R-TN); Jonathan Epstein, Legislative Assistant, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM); and Doug Clapp, Legislative Assistant, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). Congressional staff provided updates on DOE budget issues, as well as the areas lawmakers are focused on for 2003. Congressional staff also provided some insight into their respective sites, regarding present and long-term activities.

Senator Mike Crapo sits on the Senate Budget, Agricultural, Small Business, Banking, and Environment and Public Works Committees, and is also a founder of the Senate Nuclear Cleanup Caucus. Senator Crapo outlined issues facing the Budget Committee and gave some insight into how the increased spending on the war may affect the FY 2004 DOE budget. Senator Crapo noted that the \$7.2 billion EM request by the Administration was a strong number reflecting the President and Secretary Abraham's commitment to cleaning up DOE sites.

The second panel of committee staff included Clay Sell, majority staff to the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee and Drew Willison, minority staff to the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. This session focused on the DOE budget request for FY 2004. Mr. Sell and Mr. Willison both remarked on the increased funding in the Administration's request for the Environmental Management (EM) program. Mr. Sell stated that this was the best budget request for EM he has seen, but that the budget process will be very hard.

W H A T ' S H A P P E N I N G A T E C A ?

REMINDER TO ALL ECA BOARD MEMBERS

ECA staff would like to remind all ECA members to return the "Issue Prioritization" fax-back response sheet as soon as possible. In order for the ECA Executive Board and ECA staff to develop the Work Plan for FY 2004, we need your input. If you need a copy of the response sheet or have any questions, please contact Audrey Eidelman at (202) 828-2318, or by e-mail at audrey@energyca.org.

ECA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

ECA would like to welcome two new members this month:

The Paducah-Area Community Reuse Organization in Mayfield, KY and
Wastren, Inc. of Grand Junction, CO.

ECA looks forward to working with these new members on the issues affecting their communities. For membership information, please contact Annie Walker directly at (202) 828-2416, or by e-mail at annie@energyca.org.

W H A T ' S H A P P E N I N G A T D O E ?**HOUSE COMMITTEE REVIEWS DOE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

The House Committee on Government Reform recently (March 20) reviewed contract management reforms underway at DOE. The panel of witnesses consisted of Gregory Friedman, the Inspector General (IG) for DOE, and the General Accounting Office (GAO) Director of Natural Resources and Environment, Robin Navarro. Friedman noted that, "Although the Department has made some progress in restructuring its contract activities, our review has shown that the Department has not done an adequate job of contract administration." Navarro stated similarly, "DOE has made some progress in implementing initiatives to improve both its contracting practices and its management of projects, but it continues to encounter difficulties in implementing these reforms."

Friedman concluded that the failure of DOE to effectively manage certain aspects of its contract operations has led to excess expenditure of funds, use of taxpayer funds for purposes not intended, wasteful management practices, and excessive project costs. Friedman also concluded that based upon the work of the IG over the past two years, Department managers must place greater emphasis on efforts to adopt sound contract administration practices. The following are specific recommendations to DOE made by Friedman: 1) develop realistic expectations of desired outcomes; 2) establish clear contractor performance metrics; 3) closely monitor contract activities; 4) hold contractors accountable for their performance; and 5) maximize competition.

Navarro concluded that achieving improved contractor performance would require commitment and perseverance. "DOE's most recent management initiatives indicate that the department is aware it still has a long way to go in improving contractor performance." Navarro also noted that, "But the scope and magnitude of the reforms being contemplated in the Environmental Management program indicate to us for the first time that the management team has seen and understood the full extent of the challenges DOE faces." For Friedman's testimony go to: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/PDF/fried303.pdf>, and for Navarro's testimony go to: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03570t.pdf>.

OAK RIDGE: FUNDING CUTS DELAY K-25, K-27 CONTRACTS

The FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act cut DOE contract funds, which will delay the contract for the decontamination and decommissioning of the K-25 and K-27 buildings at Oak Ridge. The contract would have been awarded in June, yet the award will be delayed until FY 2004 at the earliest. The request for proposals will also be put on hold for the time being. Bechtel Jacobs proposed a fixed-price approach for the contract, which has created some disturbance among contractors. BNFL Inc. notified Bechtel Jacobs that it would not pursue the contract.

Additionally, the .65 percent across-the-board rescission included in the FY 2003 spending package will force the cleanup program to find a way to distribute the \$118 million general reduction to the sites that were included in the EM Appropriation. Initially Congress appropriated an additional \$105 million for Oak Ridge Operations, although now Oak Ridge is expected to receive \$22 million in reductions from the rescission for FY 03 funding. The FY 03 funding level at Oak Ridge is expected to be \$466 million.

U.S. AND RUSSIA AGREE TO PLAN FOR THE SHUT DOWN OF THREE REMAINING RUSSIAN PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION REACTORS

U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Aleksandr Rumyantsev signed an agreement that will facilitate the shutdown of three Russian nuclear reactors that currently produce weapons-grade plutonium. Under the agreement the U.S. will provide support to the Russian Federation for provision of replacement fossil energy plants. The three reactors will continue to operate until the fossil-replacement plants are complete and begin operations.

For the official DOE press release go to <http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/marpr/pr03055.htm>.

WASHINGTON STATE FILES SUIT AGAINST DOE TO HALT TRU SHIPMENTS TO HANFORD

On March 4, 2003, the Washington State Attorney General filed suit on behalf of the Washington Department of Ecology in U.S. District Court in Spokane. The suit is a result of DOE's failure to develop a plan for the eventual removal of TRU waste from the state, and DOE's failure to make a commitment to the state by a March 1 deadline. The suit requests that a district court forbid DOE from shipping additional quantities of TRU waste to Hanford. The state asked the court to declare the shipments a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental laws and regulations.

On March 5, 2003, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Jessie Roberson, issued the following statement: "We are extremely disappointed and believe it is very unfortunate that the State has decided to go to court in an attempt to halt the work of the Department of Energy to clean up the legacy of the Cold War. Efforts spent in court would be better spent making progress on the cleanup of the Hanford site." *For the complete press release go to: <http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/marpr/pr03045.htm>.*

On March 11, 2003, State Ecology Director, Tom Fitzsimmons imposed a 2012 deadline for having facilities in place to store and treat Hanford's TRU Waste. This refers to TRU waste that was generated at Hanford over the past three decades and is currently stored at Hanford. The deadline was in a "final determination" issued by the Department of Ecology under the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA). The final determination also requires DOE to submit a detailed plan and schedule by August 31, 2003 for developing the facilities. DOE has thirty days to appeal to the state's decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board or federal district court, and if DOE fails to do so the determination becomes part of the TPA. DOE is willing to commit to non-enforceable milestones, and has agreed to stop shipments of TRU waste into Washington, until the court issues its ruling. The State's press release is available at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/press/press-view.asp?pressRelease=1277&newsType=1>.

OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY HOSTS HANFORD EXHIBIT

The exhibit entitled "Hanford Tank Waste" opened in the fall of 2002 at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, located in Portland, Oregon.

The exhibit is varied, from a display focusing upon the history and cleanup efforts on the site to an interactive display that demonstrates radiation levels emitted by common objects.

The exhibit also features a computerized questionnaire for visitors to determine their yearly radiation exposure, based upon their daily routines. Bechtel, CH2M Hill, the Office of River Protection (ORP) and the Oregon Office of Energy paid for the exhibit.

For more information on the museum visit OMSI online at: www.oms.org.

BOARD ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT, THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Dr. Kevin Crowley, Director of the Board on Radioactive Waste Management at the National Academies, during a presentation at the ECA Annual Conference 2003, outlined current projects and studies of potential interest at the National Academies. For more information go to www.national-academies.org, or call (202) 334-3066.

Long-Term Institutional Management (LTIM) of DOE Legacy Waste Sites- Phase 2: This is a follow-on study of the 2000 LTIM report. This study examines plans and practices for representative DOE sites and makes recommendations for improvements. The report is expected to be released by the end of March 2003.

Regulation and Management of Low-Activity Radioactive Waste- Study will examine options for improving regulation and management of "low-activity" radioactive waste. The committee is visiting sites where wastes are generated and managed, and talking with experts and other interested members of the public. An interim report is expected in summer of 2003; final report in summer 2004.

Transportation of Radioactive Waste- Study will develop a high-level system of key technical and societal issues for SNF and HLW transport in the United States and identify technical and policy options. First meeting to be held in spring of 2003.

Transportation Routing- Congressional requested study to examine procedures used to select routes for transporting research reactor SNF (from government, university, and foreign research reactors) to/between DOE facilities. The study will examine the extent to which procedures utilize assessments of risk. Awaiting funds from DOT to begin.

New Studies for DOE-EM- (1) Accelerating Characterization and Treatment of Waste at DOE Sites, (2) Development of Risk-Based Approaches to disposition of TRU and HLW.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7-10, 2003

Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing (SELLS) Spring 2003 Workshop. Englewood, CO. Hosted by BNFL, Inc. "Measuring Success: Metrics and Lessons Learned." For more information go to: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/11/200304/announcement.htm> or contact John Bickford at: 509-372-3950.

April 13-17, 2003

10th Annual High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact ANS, 708-353-6611 or www.ans.org/meetings.

April 16-18, 2003

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Regulatory Information Conference. Washington, DC. Contact Sharon Bell, 301-415-1217.

May 8-9, 2003

National Academies of Science Board on Radioactive Waste Management Annual Spring Meeting. Washington, DC. Contact Toni Greenleaf, 202-334-3066.

June 1-5, 2003

American Nuclear Society Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. Contact ANS, 708-235-4473, or visit www.ans.org/meetings.

July 7-11, 2003

Conference: International Conference on Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material. Vienna, Austria; for more information go to www.iaea.org/worlatom/meetings.

September 1-5, 2003

Meeting: National Academies of Science Board on Radioactive Waste Management Annual Summer/Fall meeting. The National Academies Building, Washington, DC. Contact Toni Greenleaf for more information at 202-334-3066.

October 8-10, 2003

ECA Fall Conference 2003. Miamisburg, OH. Visit www.energyca.org/meetings.htm for more information.

INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS

TREATMENT OF MIXED INCINERABLE WASTE AT OAK RIDGE

DOE/IG-0588, March 3, 2003. DOE estimates that about 11,000 cubic meters of incinerable solid waste will require treatment and disposal through 2010. There are two major resources available for treatment of this waste: the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Incinerator; and the Vacuum-Assisted Thermal Desorption (VTD) System, both located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. During FY 2002, DOE spent approximately \$13 million to burn mixed waste in the TSCA Incinerator, and about \$6.3 million to treat mixed waste in the VTD System. The objective of the audit was to determine whether DOE was treating its mixed incinerable solid waste in an expeditious and cost-effective manner. The review disclosed significant inefficiencies in the treatment and storage of the Department's mixed incinerable waste. For the full report go to: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0588.pdf>.

NEVADA TEST SITE TRANSFER OF EXCESS PROPERTY TO THE COMMUNITY REUSE ORGANIZATION (CRO)

DOE/IG-0589, March 11, 2003. The objective of the audit was to evaluate the process through which personal property was transferred by the Nevada Test Site Office to the local CRO. The audit disclosed that Nevada's personal property transfer practices did not have an appropriate balance between the effort to assist community development and the need to assure taxpayers received reasonable consideration for property transferred to the local CRO. In January 2003, DOE's Office of Worker and Community Transition issued a memorandum providing new operating guidance for future transfers of personal property to CRO's. The IG reported this guidance as a good start, although it recommended that NNSA emphasize that only unneeded property is to be transferred to CRO's and that reasonable consideration is received for the transfers of property to the CRO's.

The IG recommends that the term "reasonable consideration" should be better defined so that it can serve as a useful decision-making guide for site managers. The Associate Administrator for Management and Administration at NNSA concurred with the IG's recommendations, and added that since a definition for "reasonable consideration" impacts NNSA and DOE, NNSA will convene all interested parties to formalize the definition. For a copy of the full report go to: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0589a.pdf>

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

To view the full Notice, go to http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html and either search by date or volume.

Hanford Site Solid (Radioactive and Hazardous) Waste Program Environmental Impact Statement

Wednesday, February 12, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 29, Page 7110]

DOE has decided to revise the scope of the Hanford Site Solid (Rad. and Haz.) Waste Program EIS. DOE will incorporate the scope of its Supplemental EIS on the Tank Waste Remediation System Disposal of Immobilized Low-Activity Wastes into the scope of the EIS for the Solid Waste Program. DOE will not issue a separate EIS for immobilized tank waste. For more information contact Michael Collins, Richland Operations Office, at (509) 376-6536.

Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking

Wednesday, February 19, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 33, Page 7990]

DOE is adopting procedures and policies to ensure that the potential impacts of its draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process.

The procedures are effective February 19, 2003 and are available on the DOE Office of General Counsel's web site at <http://www.gc.doe.gov>. For more information contact Michael Bowers at (202) 586-2902.

NRC Denies State of Nevada's Petition for Rulemaking

Thursday, February 27, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 39, Page 9023]

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is denying the State of Nevada's (the "State") petition to amend the NRC regulations governing disposal of high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain. The State proposed the amendments because it alleged that the NRC did not provide the regulatory framework to ensure that the repository isolates high-level radioactive waste over the long term. NRC denied the State's

petition, stating that the NRC is in full compliance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and the Atomic Energy Act. Copies of the petition for rulemaking and the NRC's response letter to the State are available on NRC's rulemaking web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. For more information contact Timothy McCartin at (301) 415-7285.

Draft EIS for the Construction and Operation of the Proposed MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site

Friday, February 28, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 40, Page 9728]

NRC is issuing a Draft EIS on the proposed construction of a MOX fuel facility at the SRS. The Draft EIS discusses: the purpose and need for the proposed facility; alternatives to the proposed action; the environment potentially affected by the proposal; a comparison of the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action and its alternatives; and identifies mitigation measures that could eliminate or lessen the potential environmental impacts.

The Draft EIS is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. Written comments may be submitted until April 14, 2003 by e-mail at the@nrc.gov.

Final Environmental Assessment for Waste Disposition Activities at Paducah

Tuesday, March 11, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 47, Page 11537]

DOE's Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Waste Disposition Activities at the Paducah Site is now available. Copies of the EA are available by contacting Gary Bodenstein at BodensteinGW@oro.doe.gov.

EIS for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at West Valley

Thursday, March 13, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 49, Page 12044]

DOE and the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) intend to prepare an EIS for the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at West Valley and the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (the "Center"). This EIS will revise the 1996 Draft EIS for Completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project and Closure or Long-Term Management of Facilities at the Center.

DOE and NYSERDA propose to evaluate five alternatives: Unrestricted Site Release, Partial Site Release without Restrictions, Partial Site Releases with Restrictions, Monitor and Maintain under Current Operations, and No-Action.

For more information contact Daniel Sullivan at (202) 586-4600. Comments on the scope and content of the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS are to be provided to DOE by April 28, 2003. Comments via e-mail should be sent to sonja.allen@wvnsco.com

Documents Applicable to TRU Waste from the SRS Proposed for Disposal at WIPP are Available

Tuesday, March 18, 2003
[Vol. 68, No. 52, Page 12887]

EPA documents relating to DOE's waste characterization programs for TRU waste at SRS that is proposed for disposal at WIPP are now available for public comment. The documents will be used to evaluate the Central Characterization Project activities at SRS to characterize SRS-generated contact-handled retrievable-stored TRU debris waste. Comments are due to EPA by April 17, 2003. For more information contact Rajani Joglekar at (202) 564-9310 or visit EPA online at <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/wipp>.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES Continued from page 1

The following are the seven principles outlining the relationship between DOE and local governments agreed to earlier this month at the ECA Annual Conference.

The full statement with signatures from DOE Deputy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow and the ECA Executive Board is available on ECA's web site at <http://www.energyc.org>.

1. The Department commits to work closely with local government officials as governmental partners on all DOE processes and activities that impact local communities.
2. The Department and local governments commit to maintain a timely, open and meaningful dialogue. As such, the Department and local governments share equally the responsibility to consult early and regularly with one another regarding actions that may affect the other and local governments will have direct access to Department field, site and headquarters officials.
3. The Department will utilize local governments as a central means for communicating and interacting with affected communities when developing new policies or local organizations impacting a community's health, safety, environment or economy.
4. Local governments and the Department will seek to identify and remove impediments that hinder a direct and mutually beneficial working relationship.
5. Local Governments and the Department commit to an open and direct communication process during the various phases of emergency response planning at DOE facilities.
6. Local governments commit to work with the Department to assist DOE to achieve infrastructure efficiencies in partnership with local governments.
7. The Department's field and site managers will be responsible for implementing this statement of principles at the local level.

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