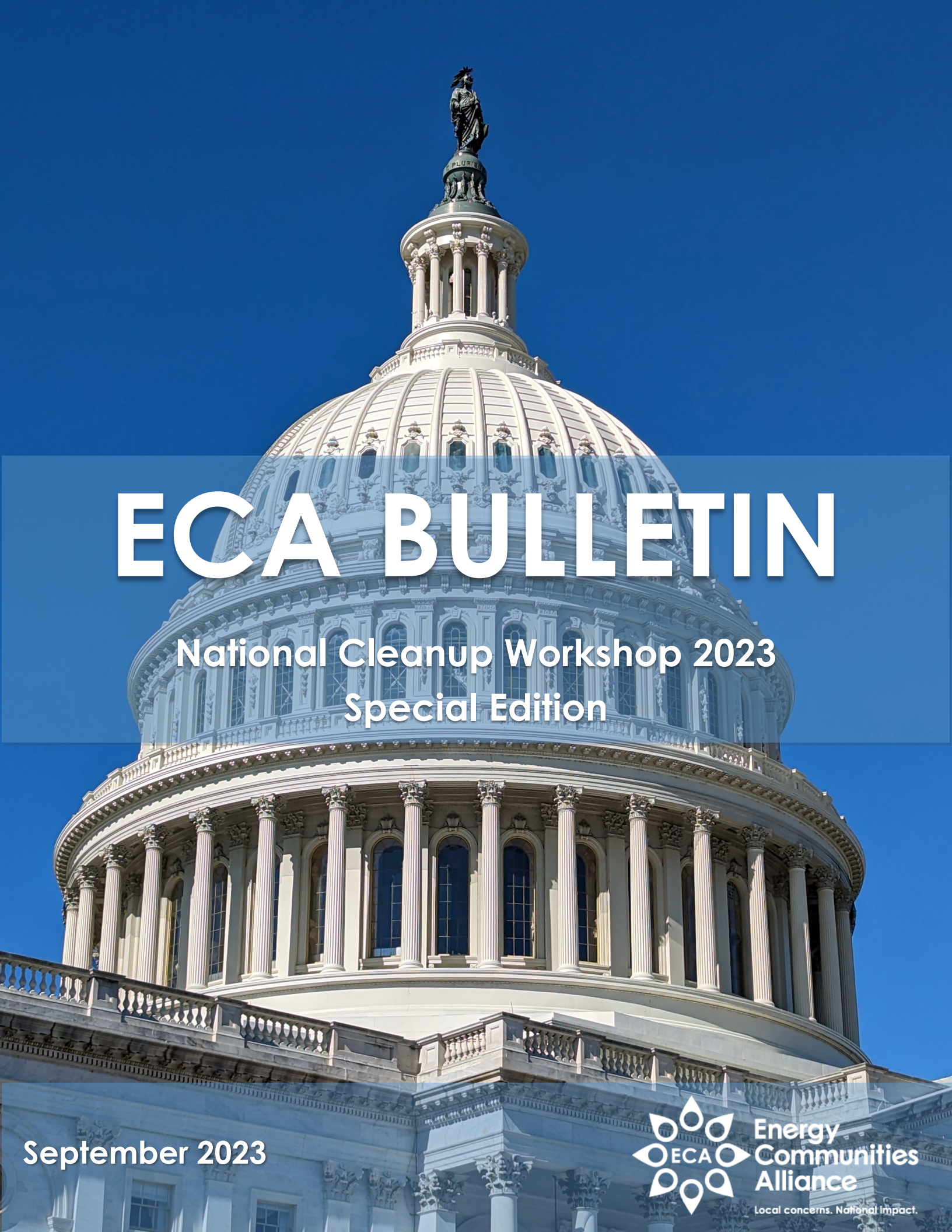

ECA BULLETIN

National Cleanup Workshop 2023
Special Edition

September 2023

Energy Communities Alliance

Local concerns. National impact.

WELCOME

On behalf of the Energy Communities Alliance, welcome to the National Cleanup Workshop 2023. We are thrilled to be joining so many of you in person for this year's Workshop, focusing on "Looking to the Future of Cleanup for EM and Communities." This has been an exciting year for ECA and throughout, our members have remained active and engaged, working with DOE to ensure cleanup work continues.

ECA appreciates the close working relationship that the communities, EM and EFCOG have built over the 8 years since we started this meeting. In this Bulletin, we look back on our accomplishments so far, the work that remains to be done, and what the future of the complex looks like for communities, contractors, and DOE.

ECA continues to focus on prioritizing DOE and communities engaging on the issues that impact the DOE mission and our communities and we appreciate the emphasis DOE's leadership is working with the communities that host and are adjacent to their sites. There is much work to be done, and we sincerely appreciate the meaningful and continued engagement with ECA. We look forward to a great Cleanup Workshop with you all.

Sincerely,

ECA Executive Board

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Brent Gerry, Mayor/CEO, City of West Richland, WA

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Ron Woody, former County Executive, Roane County, TN

Letter from ECA Executive Director Seth D. Kirshenberg

As Congress returns, there is a lot of work to be done to either pass appropriation bills or pass a continuing resolution (CR). During the National Cleanup Workshop Congressional leaders and others will provide us with input into what to expect prior to the end of the fiscal year on September 30th and beyond as we head into a Presidential election year in 2024.

As we noted in our article in this ECA Bulletin, the current Energy and Water Appropriations bills look positive for EM, NNSA, NE, LM, Science and other DOE program offices on both the House and Senate side. We will be watching these bills for any changes and to see whether a Government shutdown can be averted.

Cleanup to Clean Energy Initiative

ECA is excited to see DOE focused on reusing portions of federal sites for clean energy development in our communities. We have worked on these issues for years with many successful and ongoing new energy initiatives across the complex and we hope to support more as the Administration makes this a priority. Since DOE announced the initiative, several sites in addition to the five originally outlined to have asked to be included. DOE working directly with the local communities will make this program a success.

ECA's New Nuclear Initiative

Reflecting the many clean energy initiatives in our communities, ECA's New Nuclear Initiative has grown exponentially. ECA is focused on bringing local elected officials and leaders from around DOE facilities together with communities around former and current commercial facilities, developers, utilities, academia, trades and industry to address the opportunities and challenges related to new nuclear development. By facilitating information sharing and breaking down silos, ECA hopes to collaborate on how best to take action on common goals and increase efficiency in decision-making. ECA held its second New Nuclear Forum in Paducah, Kentucky, in May and the engagement with the companies that are developing these new technologies - from advanced reactors to much needed nuclear fuels - has been fascinating. We are looking forward the next Forum in Richland, Washington, May 7-10, 2024. Stay tuned for more information.

Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities

Recognizing similarities in clean Energy initiatives being pursued in the UK, Europe and Canada, ECA has created, along with our partners GMF Europe and CANHC, a new international partnership of the municipalities around nuclear facilities called the Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities. Our shared goal is to ensure the engagement of local communities in decision-making by companies and governments developing nuclear energy production and nuclear waste storage facilities and nuclear cleanup strategies. We have seen a lot of interest by DOE and the industries that work across the borders on these issues.

EM Workforce

Over the past year, ECA, EM and EFCOG created a great new program that focuses on workforce issues across our sites. The forward-looking data provided by EM site contractors has been a fascinating look at the workforce needs for next five years at the sites. Already our communities and educational institutions are using that data to assist DOE. EM, ECA and EFCOG hosted (with N3B) the first of many EM workforce meetings at a site with local government, Pueblos, DOE, N3B, Triad, colleges and universities and others where we discussed what needs to occur to better address workforce issues and ensure the we have the workforce necessary for ongoing and future cleanup missions.

We (ECA members) look forward to working with all of you over the coming year.

Seth D. Kirshenberg
Executive Director
Energy Communities Alliance

House and Senate E&W Appropriations – *EM, NE, NNSA and Science Funding Remains Strong*

The House Appropriations Committee (HR 4394) in June and Senate Appropriations Committee (S 2443) in July, completed their work on the Energy and Water Appropriation bills and the full Senate and House would need to take up the bills in September to pass them prior to the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2023, or pass a continuing resolution (CR).

As we have noted in the past, the expectation is for the federal government to operate through a CR until the House and Senate can agree on spending levels. Congress has enacted one or more CRs in all but three of the 47 fiscal years since the start of the fiscal year since FY1977. Also, for the past several years prior to a Presidential election, the CRs typically last into the following calendar year.

Generally, the Energy and Water Appropriation bills are consistent with last year's appropriations across NNSA, EM, Office of Science, NE, LM and other projects that our communities follow.

The following are summaries of key provisions of the House and Senate Committee Reports of the Energy and Water Appropriations. These summaries highlight key policy and spending issues that Congress is focused on as it relates to the programs.

Office of Environmental Management (Enacted in FY 23 $8.2 billion)
House - $42.8 million increase ($8.28 billion)
Senate - $275 million increase ($8.5 billion)

National Nuclear Security Administration (Enacted in FY 23 $22.1 billion)
House - $1.79 billion increase ($23.9 billion)
Senate - $1.71 billion increase ($23.8 billion)

Office of Nuclear Energy (Enacted in FY 23 $1.47 billion)
House - $310 million increase ($1.78 billion)
Senate - $77.8 million increase ($1.55 billion)

Office of Science (Enacted in FY 23 $8.1 billion)
House - $0 increase ($8.1 billion)
Senate - $5.39 million increase ($8.43 billion)

Office of Legacy Management (Enacted in FY 23 $190 million)
House and Senate- $5.39 million increase ($196 million)

Office of Nuclear Waste Disposal (Enacted in FY 23 $10.2 million)
House and Senate - $1.83 million increase ($12 million)

Department of Energy (Enacted in FY 23 $46.2 billion) House - $2.94 billion decrease ($43.3 billion) Senate - $4 billion increase ($50.2 billion)

Department of Energy Budget & Appropriations Highlights
(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Omnibus	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 House Bill	FY 2024 Senate Bill	Δ FY24 Senate – Δ FY24 House	Δ FY24 Senate – FY23 Omnibus
Environmental Management	8,237,635	8,279,769	8,280,464	8,512,564	+232,100	+274,929
National Nuclear Security Administration	22,162,564	23,845,000	23,959,247	23,878,569	-80,678	+1,716,005
Nuclear Energy	1,473,000	1,562,620	1,783,000	1,550,887	-232,113	+77,887
Science	8,100,000	8,800,400	8,100,000	8,430,000	+330,000	+330,000
Legacy Management	190,909	196,302	196,302	196,302	--	+5,393
Nuclear Waste Disposal	10,205	12,040	12,040	12,040	--	+1,835
TOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	46,243,359	52,571,112	43,298,519	50,269,080	+6,970,561	+4,025,721

Environmental Cleanup and Waste Issues – Support for Cleanup Budget

The House Appropriations Committee recognizes that for certain sites to see an increase in their budget, it is at an expense of other sites. The Committee recommends a significantly higher budget request for Hanford site to support stable cleanup activities, however, Oak Ridge, Idaho, and Savannah River saw a decrease. The Committee advocates for "a balanced approach that sustains the momentum of ongoing cleanup activities more consistently across all Department cleanup sites".

The Senate Appropriations Committee recognizes the importance of continuous funding for defense environmental cleanup "the Department is required to meet specific compliance milestones toward the cleanup of the Hanford site. Among other things, the Department committed to provide the funding necessary to enable full compliance with its cleanup milestones. The Committee recognizes that significant progress has been made at the Hanford site, but greater funding will be necessary to meet compliance milestones." Hanford site saw the largest increase of all Defense sites with a $120.8 million increase (total $1 billion).

Except for Washington, Nevada, and South Carolina, the bill would provide flat or even decreased funding for cleanup sites.

The bill also includes future budget requests, where "The Committee continues to direct the Department to include out-year funding projections in the annual budget request by control point for Environmental Management, and an estimate of the total cost and time to complete each site". This includes

acknowledgement of the Committees obligations to Richland for future cleanup. As well as continuous funding for Office of River Protection, Containment Ventilation Systems, Program Direction, and Technology Development. The Committee states that within their available funds $5 billion for "continued independent review, analysis, and applied research to support cost-effective, risk informed cleanup decision making".

DOE Office of Environmental Management Budget Highlights
Senate and House Energy and Water Appropriations Bills
(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2023 Omnibus	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 House Bill HR 4394	FY 2024 Senate Bill S 2443	Δ FY24 Senate – Δ FY24 House	Δ FY24 Senate – FY23 Omnibus
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	8,237,635	8,279,769	8,280,464	8,512,564	+232,100	+274,929
Defense Environmental Cleanup	7,073,587	7,073,587	7,073,556	7,296,564	+223,008	+222,977
Hanford/Richland	1,006,519	921,200	921,200	1,042,000	+120,800	+35,481
Office of River Protection	1,730,408	1,974,934	1,882,934	1,890,000	+7,066	+159,592
Idaho National Laboratory	458,000	447,041	478,205	447,041	-31,164	-10,959
Lawrence Livermore National Lab	1,842	1,897	1,879	1,879	-	+37
Separations Process Research Unit	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300	-	-
Nevada Site	62,652	61,952	61,952	73,352	+11,400	+10,700
Sandia National Laboratory	4,003	2,264	2,264	2,264	-	-1,739
Los Alamos National Laboratory	286,316	273,831	273,831	273,831	-	-12,485
Los Alamos Excess Facilities D&D	40,519	13,648	13,648	13,648	-	-26,871
Oak Ridge Reservation	505,149	505,000	564,500	525,000	-39,500	+19,851
Savannah River Site	1,648,023	1,575,952	1,648,761	1,713,452	+64,691	+65,429
Carlsbad/Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	458,697	464,326	464,326	464,326	-	+5,629
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	358,583	348,700	341,700	354,000	+12,300	-4,583
West Valley Demonstration Project	89,882	89,882	89,882	89,882	-	-
Gaseous Diffusion Plants	130,938	132,983	132,983	140,483	+7,500	+9,545
Small Sites	132,463	122,635	115,635	120,435	+4,800	-12,028
UED&D Fund	879,052	857,482	865,208	862,000	-3,208	-17,052
Oak Ridge	92,946	91,000	91,000	91,000	-	-1,946
Paducah	240,000	217,874	240,000	240,000	-	-
Portsmouth	480,394	492,810	492,810	492,810	-	+12,416

Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup

Both committees provide funding for non-defense environmental cleanup that includes funds to manage and remediate sites that were used for civilian, energy research, and non-defense related activities. These activities from the past resulted in radioactive and mixed waste contamination that requires cleanup actions.

The House committee provides funding for gaseous diffusion plants ($132 million) and" notes with approval the Department's initial steps to implement a multi-year campaign to transport and dispose of surplus depleted uranium oxide cylinders from the Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio, facilities". The Committee also provides $115 million for small sites, which includes the Energy Technology Engineering Center ($115 million), Idaho National Laboratory ($4.5 million), and Moab ($67 million).

DOE Funding Overall

The House Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies bill provides $57.958 billion in discretionary spending, which is below the FY24 President's Budget Request by $1.963. This bill provides an increase of the FY23 enacted level in both defense and non-defense spending. This bill supports a strong national security by the providing billions for

Naval Reactors and Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation. As well as prioritizing energy security by supporting domestic uranium enrichment capabilities, including HALEU availability.

The Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act provides $58.095 billion in total funding for Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and independent agencies. This bill supports scientific research to keep America on the cutting edge of new resources that will support our nuclear nonproliferation, environmental clean-up efforts and safe maintenance of our nuclear weapons stockpile.

MORE INFORMATION

To read this full article scan the QR code.

Guide to Successful Environmental Cleanup

An interactive guide for communities and governments to navigate nuclear waste clean up

ECA has created the Guide to Successful Environmental Cleanup to help local communities, stakeholders, states, and Tribes better understand the components of the DOE and NNSA cleanup program, and to assist DOE in better understanding the questions local elected officials in host and frontline communities need to answer to build and maintain support for cleanup decisions. As history has shown, without local support efforts to gain public acceptance will likely fail.

In this easy-to-use online tool, ECA applies a “Common Questions and Answers” format with information on the key issues of concern to DOE communities.

Subjects covered include:

- Basics of environmental cleanup
- How local governments can establish priorities for their site
- How to engage with DOE and manage risk
- Role of the federal budget in cleanup decisions
- Federal laws and the impact on cleanup decision-making
- Economic development opportunities and impacts around federal facilities (reuse, workforce, PILT, and other issues)

To explore the interactive guide, please scan the QR code below:

ECA Calls on DOE Leadership and Congress to Prioritize and Re-Energize Disposal Solutions for Radioactive Waste

ECA recently released a new report, "***Disposal Drives Cleanup: Re-Energizing Momentum for Disposal Solutions for Radioactive Waste***," calling on DOE to launch the initiative to develop the actual waste disposition approaches. The Department could potentially save hundreds of billions of dollars in cleanup costs by using its available tools and implementing the report's recommendations.

"The simple truth is that DOE cannot safely and effectively complete its environmental cleanup obligations without clear and achievable waste disposal pathways and locations for ALL of the waste under DOE's responsibility," the report states.

The Department has made significant progress toward the cleanup mission and has demonstrated its ability to safely manage waste over multiple decades. Renewed focus and action are now needed to develop disposal solutions for some of DOE's most pressing waste types, including waste resulting from former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing activities; high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel and Greater-than-Class-C low-level waste. DOE also needs to take action to ensure sustained engagement and support for communities that could host disposal options. Without such disposal solu-tions, DOE faces continued delays in address-ing one of its largest environmental hazards and financial costs, and in completing cleanup activities and impacted relationships with state, local and Tribal governments and engaged stakeholders.

"DOE's cleanup liability is one of the largest in the nation, and delay or lack of expediency could easily overwhelm available funding. It is DOE's responsibility to abide by its legal and moral obligations to achieve waste treatment and disposal safely and efficiently for long-term protection of the environment, workers, and public," the report states.

The report offers the following recommendations to develop more efficient and equitable approaches to address the waste management challenges DOE faces today:

1. **Prioritize Use of the High-Level Waste Interpretation**
2. **Support and Complete the Consent-Based Siting Process**
3. **Select a Disposal Site for GTCC Waste**
4. **Support WIPP and Develop and Issue Long-Term, Integrated Plans for Operations**
5. **Continue to Emphasize Regular, Meaningful Engagement with Communities**
6. **Provide Technical Assistance to Communities to Address Waste Issues**
7. **Re-evaluate the Practice of Incentivizing Contractors to Open a Waste Site in the Contracting Process Prior to Obtaining Community Support and Regulatory Approval**
8. **Maximize the Use of Public and Private Disposal Site Options**
9. **Create Tools to Show a Community the Impacts of Waste Decisions**

To read the full report, please visit www.energyca.org/publications.

Above: Anderson County, Tennessee

Below: Idaho Falls, Idaho

ECA AWARDS GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

FUNDS WILL BENEFIT LOCAL FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES AROUND DOE CLEANUP SITES

Above: Historic photo of the Town of Ashford, New York

The Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) recently awarded grants to three local governments – Anderson County, TN; the City of Idaho Falls, ID; and the Town of Ashford, NY – to increase education and outreach campaigns and local government participation in the Department of Energy's (DOE) environmental cleanup mission. Each grant recipient was awarded funding in the amount of $50,000.

A key part of ECA's organizational mission is to educate local governments on issues impacting the frontline communities at DOE sites, as well as to promote local government interaction on DOE's core missions and initiatives. It is essential that DOE decision-making reflects local government engagement, and enduring acceptance of these decisions requires informed and involved local government officials and local government entities.

In support of this goal, ECA developed the grant pilot program to increase education and local government and community participation in DOE's environmental cleanup efforts at sites where DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) has ongoing responsibilities, including defense and non-defense environmental cleanup sites.

Each of the three grant recipients submitted applications that met the requirements of the grant program, and that demonstrated clear goals and a plan for implementation of project activities, which aligned with the goal and purpose of project.

Anderson County will coordinate development and implementation of an enhanced education and outreach strategy and creation of long-term engagement mechanisms around environmental cleanup issues, including frontline stakeholder meetings, workshops, digital outreach, data collection and reporting, third party consultation, and collaboration on an economic development strategy.

The **City of Idaho Falls** will work with the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium to create education materials and displays, building a forum to disseminate accurate information about environmental cleanup progress and technological breakthroughs and challenges.

The **Town of Ashford** will retain a consultant for technical assistance involved in the Probabilistic Performance Assessment that is being developed as part of the Supplemental EIS for the West Valley Demonstration Project and will provide the community with a better understanding of the application of federal and state environmental cleanup laws, standards, and goals for the site.

ECA would like to thank all applicants for their interest in this grant pilot program and to express our gratitude to the Selection Committee for their time and efforts.

UPDATE ON ECA'S NEW NUCLEAR INITIATIVE

Nearly three years after being announced, ECA's New Nuclear Initiative (NNI) to define the role of local governments in supporting the development of the new nuclear technologies continues to build momentum.

The Initiative is focused around three core questions:

- **What do communities need to know to attract and support new nuclear development/missions?**
- **What and how should communities communicate to industry, national laboratories, state and federal governments about local resources and development opportunities?**
- **What hurdles and challenges will communities face and who can we work with to overcome them?**

To encourage a holistic approach and breakdown natural silos, ECA is working to bring together potential host communities, developers, utilities, federal and state policymakers, academia, industry and trade representatives through its New Nuclear Forums, meetings that aim to:

- **Provide a venue for nuclear technology and project developers to meet and interact with interested potential host communities.**
- **Share lessons learned from communities and developers hosting nuclear power facilities or federal nuclear missions and outline what local government needs to understand and should consider as potential hosts for nuclear projects.**
- **Facilitate discussions to better understand the outlook for new nuclear development and provide realistic timelines for local governments and economic development entities looking at siting, regulation, public-private partnerships and how to build support from the ground-up.**

ECA held its first Forum on New Nuclear Development in Salt Lake City, Utah, in August 2022. Five case studies were featured during that meeting with presentations by critical public and private teams engaging on the ground in:

- **Idaho Falls, Idaho**
- **Tri-Cities, Washington**
- **Portsmouth, Ohio**
- **Oak Ridge, Tennessee**
- **Kemmerer, Wyoming**

Below: New Nuclear Development Forum in May 2023

This year in May, ECA's provided an update on those case studies at the second New Nuclear Forum: Building Capacity and Opportunity in Paducah, Kentucky. Close to 250 stakeholders – including federal, local, and tribal officials; new nuclear developers, utilities, and contractors; international nuclear host communities; union leaders; and think tanks – gathered to exchange ideas and lessons learned about the next generation of nuclear energy. Participants also had the opportunity to tour the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

Dr. Kathryn Huff, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) provided the keynote address at the meeting where topics of discussion ranged from financing new nuclear projects to leveraging existing infrastructure, additional applications for nuclear beyond energy production, opportunities to rebuild manufacturing and supply chains and the potential for a coal - to-nuclear energy transition in parts of the country where some members of the existing workforce are prime for reskilling.

Above: Chuck Hope, ECA Member at ECA Forum in Paducah, KY

The major takeaways and themes raised throughout the panel discussions included:

- **Communities remain the key to success for new nuclear development.**
- **Communities will face unique situations when considering deployment of new nuclear technology.**
- **There is growing interest in additional applications for nuclear beyond energy production, and for discussions on workforce training and reskilling.**
- **New nuclear will be a critical part of the mix in an all-of-the-above energy strategy and will facilitate the deployment of other clean energy technologies and renewable power sources.**

There was also wide agreement on the need for ongoing, iterative collaboration. Many speakers noted that bringing all critical stakeholder perspectives into the same room will be crucial in making real progress to address our national, state, and local clean energy and economic opportunity goals.

To amplify the voice of local elected officials and leaders, ECA recently announced the creation of a new membership category for communities hosting or interested in hosting future public or private nuclear projects.

In addition, ECA is already planning the third New Nuclear Development Forum, May 7-10, 2024, in Richland, Washington (view back for more info).

NATIONAL CLEANUP WORKSHOP

2023 National Cleanup Workshop Agenda

Marriott Crystal Gateway
1700 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA

"Looking to the Future of Cleanup for EM and Communities"

Hosted by the Energy Communities Alliance in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Contractors Group

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023	
10:30am – 2:30pm	**Special Early Career Pre-Conference Workshop**
4:00pm – 6:00pm	**Registration Opens**
4:00pm – 7:00pm	**Exhibits Open**
5:00pm – 7:00pm	**Welcome Reception**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	
7:00am – 8:00am	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**
8:00am – 8:15am	**Opening Remarks** **Introduction: Seth Kirshenberg**, Executive Director, Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) **Brent Gerry**, Mayor, City of West Richland, WA; Chair, ECA **Sandra Fairchild**, Vice Chair, Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG); Director, Mission Assurance & Controls, United Cleanup Oak Ridge, LLC (UCOR)
8:15am – 8:45am	**EM PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES** **Introduction: Sandra Fairchild**, Vice Chair, Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG); Director, Mission Assurance & Controls, United Cleanup Oak Ridge, LLC (UCOR) **William "Ike" White**, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management, DOE
8:45am – 9:00am	**U.S.-Canada Bilateral Agreement – Information Sharing on Nuclear Waste Management** **U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Management (DOE-EM)** **Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)**

Energy Communities Alliance ECA | EFCOG | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

9:00am – 9:15 am	**COFFEE BREAK**
9:15am – 10:30am	**Highlighting the Next Phase of EM Successes** **Moderator: Jeff Avery**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOE-EM *...IWTU Startup* **Connie Flohr**, Manager, Idaho Cleanup Project, DOE-EM **Ty Blackford**, President & Program Manager, Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC *...Accelerated Basin De-inventory Mission Start* **Michael Budney**, Manager, Savannah River Site Operations Office, DOE-EM **Dennis Carr**, President and CEO, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions *...EM-Los Alamos Strategic Vision* **Michael Mikolanis**, Manager, EM Los Alamos Field Office, DOE-EM **Brad Smith**, President and General Manager, N3B
10:30am – 11:30pm	**Roundtable: Regulatory Challenges and Key Decisions Across the EM Complex** **Moderator: Carolyn Hanson**, Executive Director, Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) **Christine Andres**, Chief, Bureau of Federal Facilities, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection **David Bowen**, Nuclear Waste Program Manager, Washington Department of Ecology **Greg Gervais**, Director, EPA Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office **Greg Young**, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
11:30pm – 11:45pm	**Keynote** **Introduction: Brent Gerry,** Mayor, City of West Richland, WA, Chair, ECA **David Turk,** Deputy Secretary of Energy, DOE
11:45pm – 1:00pm	**LUNCH**
1:00pm – 1:15pm	**Perspective from Capitol Hill** **Introduction: Chuck Hope,** Council Member, City of Oak Ridge, TN, Secretary, ECA **Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03)**, Chairman, House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
1:15pm – 2:30pm	**Roundtable: Perspectives from Corporate Leadership on Project Performance and Recent Lessons Learned** **Moderator: Martin Schneider**, President, Longenecker & Associates, Inc. **Jim Blankenhorn**, Senior Vice President-Environment and Security, Amentum **Heatherly Dukes**, President, BWXT Technical Services Group **Greg Meyer**, Senior Vice President, Fluor **Dena Volovar**, Executive Vice President, Nuclear, Security & Environmental, Bechte **Karen Wiemelt**, Sr. Vice President & General Manager, Energy, Security & Technology, Jacobs

2:30pm – 3:00pm	**COFFEE BREAK**
3:00pm –4:-00pm	**The Future of EM—Long Term Funding Needs** **Moderator: David Reeploeg**, Executive Director, Hanford Communities **Steve Trischman, Deputy** Assistant Secretary for Resource Management, DOE-EM **Adam DeMella**, Global Government Affairs Leader, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy **Randall Ryti**, Councilor, Los Alamos County Council **Brian Vance**, Manager, Office of River Protection/ Richland Operations Office, DOE-EM
4:00pm – 5:00pm	**Roundtable: DOE Field Office Managers** **Moderator: Ralph Holland**, Chief Consultant, Atkins Nuclear Secured (ANS) **Mark Bollinger**, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office, DOE-EM **Joel Bradburne**, Manager, Portsmouth Paducah Project Office, DOE-EM **Michael Budney**, Manager, Savannah River Site Operations Office, DOE-EM **Connie Flohr**, Manager, Idaho Cleanup Project, DOE-EM **Michael Mikolanis**, Manager, EM Los Alamos Field Office, DOE-EM **Jay Mullis**, Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, DOE-EM **Brian Vance**, Manager, Office of River Protection/ Richland Operations Office, DOE-EM **Jack Zimmerman,** Director, Consolidated Business Center, DOE-EM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

7:00am – 8:00am	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**
8:00am – 8:30am	**KEYNOTE** **Introduction: Seth Kirshenberg**, Executive Director, ECA **James McConnell**, Associate Principal Deputy Administrator, NNSA
8:30am – 9:45am	**Cleanup Enables DOE's Future: EM Work at NNSA/Science Sites** **Moderator: Amy Fitzgerald**, Government Affairs and Information Services Director, City of Oak Ridge, TN **Jeff Avery**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOE-EM **Ken Harrawood**, President and Program Manager, Salado Isolation Mining Contractors **Chuck Hope**, Council Member, City of Oak Ridge, TN, Secretary, ECA **Johnny Moore**, Manager, DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office **Jay Mullis**, Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, DOE-EM **Ken Rueter**, President and CEO, United Cleanup Oak Ridge, LLC (UCOR)
9:45am – 10:30am	**Consent-Based Siting** **Introduction: Kara Colton**, Director of Nuclear Policy, ECA **Erica Bickford**, Director, Office of Integrated Waste Management, DOE Office of Nuclear Energy
10:30am – 11:00am	**COFFEE BREAK**

11:00am – 12:00pm	**Disposal Drives Cleanup: Ensuring Effective Waste Disposition** **Moderator: Christine Gelles**, COO, Longenecker & Associates, Inc. **Robbie Bennett**, CEO, SRS Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) **Joel Bradburne**, Manager, Portsmouth Paducah Project Office, DOE-EM **David Carlson**, President, Waste Control Specialists **Kristen Ellis**, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, DOE-EM **Seth Kirshenberg**, Executive Director, ECA
12:00pm – 1:00pm	**LUNCH**
1:00pm – 1:15pm	**Perspective from Capitol Hill** **Introduction: Jerome Delvin**, Benton County Commissioner, WA **Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04)**, Congressman
1:15pm – 1:45pm	**EM Acquisition Update and Policy Discussion** **Introduction: Richard Provencher**, Vice President Nuclear D&D, Cavendish Nuclear **Angela Watmore**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management, DOE-EM
12:00pm – 1:00pm	**COFFEE BREAK**
2:00pm – 3:00pm	**Advanced Energy Development at DOE Sites** **Moderator: Rebecca Casper**, Mayor, City of Idaho Falls, ID, Vice-Chair, ECA **Dr. Matthew Hertel**, I&C Engineering Manager & Design Lead, X-energy **Ingrid Kolb**, Director, Office of Management, DOE-EM **Ashley Saunders**, Program and Sustainability Management, UCOR **Todd Shrader**, Director, Project Management, DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations *(Invited)* **Mike Squires,** Director of Government Affairs, UAMPS **Stephanie Weir**, Siting and Regulatory Strategy Manager, National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC).
3:00pm – 4:00pm	**Leaders of the Future: Attracting and Developing Next-Generation Leaders for EM** **Moderator: Ryan Overton**, Executive Vice President, Navarro Research and Engineering **JJ Chavez,** Council Member, City of Carlsbad, NM; ECA Executive Board **Kristen Ellis**, Acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, DOE-EM **Sonya Johnson**, Public Affairs & Stakeholder Management Director, UCOR **Dr. Dorian Newton**, Site Training Deputy Program Director, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions **Jennie Stults**, Deputy Project Manager, Hanford Central Plateau Cleanup Company
4:00pm	**ADJOURN**

Energy Communities Alliance ECA

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ECA IN LOS ALAMOS—HOSTS MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK MEETING; AND OTHERS

Above: Group photo taken outside of Los Alamos SALA Center prior to Oppenheimer Showing

On August 16-17, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA and Los Alamos County hosted the communities around Oak Ridge and Hanford sites along with EM, LM and the National Park Service. After the release of *Oppenheimer*, the focus on the Manhattan Project and the National Park (which is now 7 years old) has grown significantly. Each community provided an update of their own park and spoke about their successes and challenges in recent years. This meeting accentuated the wide support and partnership from NPS, DOE and the local communities for MAPR.

The three communities also used this time to discuss their own strategies regarding fundraising for MAPR. An issue ECA knows that will continue to be part of the conversation as we move forward.

On August 15th, prior to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, ECA hosted a Communities Adjacent to Los Alamos National Laboratory and Savannah River Site Pit Production meeting. Besides the two communities, representatives from NNSA and DOE-EM also joined. NNSA representatives emphasized the importance of the mission for our national security. Representatives from Los Alamos and Savannah River shared their own lessons learned and the major issues facing the program such as workforce availability, housing shortage, and long-term support.

The final meeting of the week was hosted in conjunction with DOE-EM and EFCOG. This meeting was centered around the workforce needs for Environmental Management in Los Alamos as it is was one of the major issues discussed throughout the week.

Those in attendance included local government in the region, representatives from pueblos in the area, as well as educators from local community colleges and universities. Each group contributed a next step to address the engagement issues and concerns with workforce.

Above (Left to Right): Brad Smith at the Workforce Meeting in Los Alamos

5th Circuit Court of Appeals Rules NRC does not have the Legal Authority to Site a Private Interim Nuclear Waste Storage Facility

The 5th Circuit in a broad ruling clarifies current law – specifically the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does not have the legal authority to license an interim nuclear waste storage facility for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level nuclear waste (HLW) at a private facility. The Court ruled that the law only permits a geologic repository or storage at the current licensed reactor sites (or at a federal facility for operating reactors that do not have space to store the SNF).

The result of the ruling - over 35 states remain de facto nuclear waste storage sites unless the federal government takes action. The closed or closing reactor sites along with the DOE HLW sites have no path forward unless the federal government follows the current law or changes the law.

Specifically, the State of Texas and others challenged the NRC ability to license an interim storage facility and the 5th Circuit ruled on Friday (25 August): "*The Atomic Energy Act* ***does not confer on the [NRC] the broad authority it claims to issue licenses for private parties to store spent nuclear fuel away-from-the-reactor****. And the Nuclear Waste Policy Act establishes a comprehensive statutory scheme for dealing with nuclear waste generated from commercial nuclear power generation, thereby foreclosing the Commission's claim of authority."*

This ruling is a blow to how nuclear waste will be managed in the United States. This is also a punch in the stomach to all of the local communities which host the sites that have called on the federal government to address the issue for the past 30+ years and were looking at interim storage as a possible step to moving the spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste at a centralized site prior to the SNF and HLW going to a geologic repository.

Over 13 years ago the then current Administration ended licensing of the selected US geologic repository. The NY Times reported the "Death of Yucca Mountain Caused by Political Maneuvering" At the time a committee (the Blue Ribbon Commission) was formed to create a recommendation for a path forward if the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (the current law) was not going to be followed. Over a decade later – no progress- the communities that host these facilities are the de facto long term storage sites for nuclear waste in the United States. Nothing has happened since the publication of the Commission report.

Spent nuclear fuel – over 85,000 metric tons (and growing) - is stored at over 70 sites in 35 states. In addition, over 90 million gallons of radioactive waste from the nation's nuclear weapons program is stored primarily in Washington, South Carolina and Idaho.

No movement forward at all is how the communities look at the actions of the federal government – despite a law to the contrary each community is going to remain the repository as no one is willing to move forward with a centralized site – in accordance with the law.

Although the hope of interim storage sites (similar to ones throughout the world) would be developed, the Court said that the United States government needs to follow the law. The Court is clear:

> *"Nuclear power generation produces thousands of metric tons of nuclear waste each year. And such waste has been accumulating at nuclear power plants throughout the United States for decades.* ***Congress has mandated that such waste be permanently stored in a geologic repository. But the development, licensing, and construction of that repository has stalled."***
>
> *To address this problem, [NRC] has asserted that it has authority under the Atomic Energy Act to license temporary, away-from-reactor storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel. Based on that claim of authority, the Commission has issued a license for Interim Storage Partners, LLC, a private company, to operate a temporary storage facility on the Permian Basin, in Andrews County, Texas.*
>
> *"****The Atomic Energy Act does not confer on the Commission the broad authority it claims to issue licenses for private parties to store spent nuclear fuel away-from-the-reactor****. And the Nuclear Waste Policy Act establishes a comprehensive statutory scheme for dealing with nuclear waste generated from commercial nuclear power generation, thereby foreclosing the Commission's claim of authority. Accordingly, we grant the petition for review and vacate the license."*

What Next?

The path forward for nuclear waste remains:

1) Follow current law (note below we identify limited ability of DOE to create an interim storage facility for SNF at a federal site – see Consent Based Siting section)

2) Pass a new law – amending the current law – to permit interim storage at private sites and federal sites.

3) Do nothing and leave the spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste in over 35 states – none of which are licensed to store waste for the long term.

Although the NRC may appeal the ruling – a key quote in the case refers to the 2022 Supreme Court case that specifically identifies that federal agency authority is limited to the statute where the law is unambiguous: *In sum, the Atomic Energy Act doesn't authorize the Commission to license a private, away-from-reactor storage facility for spent nuclear fuel. And the Nuclear Waste Policy Act doesn't permit it. Accordingly, we hold that the Commission doesn't have authority to issue the license challenged here.*

New Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities

Local communities want new nuclear development. Internationally, these communities know how to tout the abundant and reliable carbon-free energy source, including small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors, as a selling point to attract businesses and spur economic development. Similarly, leading businesses and the international governments are requiring their facilities to reduce their carbon output or become carbon free in the coming decades.

The Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities in Europe (GMF Europe), Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), and Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) have created the New Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities to realize the untapped potential of working with similar municipal organizations across the globe.

As a coalition of international communities, we work to share information, educate each other, advocate for municipalities in nuclear, and collaborate to assist our communities and other communities hosting or interested in hosting nuclear facilities. Our goal is to provide municipalities around the globe with a voice and role in nuclear issues.

GMF Europe, ECA, and CANHC will continue our individual and joint advocacy for support for local host communities among regulators, current and future nuclear industry, and other members of the nuclear supply chain. We sincerely appreciate the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency for our global partnership.

gmf GROUP OF EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITIES WITH NUCLEAR FACILITIES

ECA Energy Communities Alliance
Local concerns. National impact.

CANHC
Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities

Nuclear Development Forum:
Hosting New Nuclear Development

Plan to Attend

May 7-10 | Richland, Washington

Building on the momentum from successful meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Paducah, Kentucky, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) is excited to announce it will host its **third ECA Forum on Hosting New Nuclear Development in Richland, Washington, May 7-10, 2024**.

Meeting Highlights

DOE Cleanup to Clean Energy
Outlook on Availability of Nuclear Fuels
Regulatory Outlook
Workforce Development and Training
Reuse of Facilities for New Nuclear Development
Supporting Advance Manufacturing Technologies to Support Rebuilding the Supply Chain

Meeting Goals

The meeting is part of ECA's New Nuclear Initiative to define the role of local governments in supporting the development of the new nuclear technologies, and answer three core questions:

- What do communities need to know to attract and support new nuclear development/missions?
- How can communities support industry, national laboratories, state, and federal governments and how should they communicate about local resources and development opportunities?
- What hurdles and challenges will communities face – along with industry and developers – and who can we work with to overcome them?

Questions?

Please contact Kara Colton, ECA'S Director of Nuclear policy, at kara.colton@energyca.org
or Faith Sanchez, ECA Program Manager at faiths@energyca.org
Additional Information Coming Soon

The Nuclear Development Forum is part of ECA's New Nuclear Initiative to connect with communities across the United States that may be interested in supporting the deployment of advanced nuclear energy technologies.