

Department requests \$24.3 billion for FY 2005

Lab contracts to be extended, competed

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First visit to Philippines by U.S. Secretary of Energy



U.S. Department of Energy



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The National School Boards Association has formally endorsed Rebuild America/EnergySmart Schools, a Department of Energy program.



On our cover

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham traveled to Japan, China, the Republic of the Philippines, and Australia in January 2004 to promote energy security and Department of Energy (DOE) initiatives. The trip to the Philippines was the first ever by a U.S. Secretary of Energy.

In the top photograph, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo greets Secretary Abraham at the Malacanang Palace in Manila on Jan. 13.

In the bottom photograph, (l-r) U.S. Agency for International Development Mission Director Michael Yates, Secretary Abraham, and Philippine Secretary of Energy Vincente Perez sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the Sustainable Energy Development Program between the two countries and to promote the use of cleaner-burning fuels in vehicles.

For more on the visit to Asia and the Pacific, see page 3. ❖

Secretary travels to Asia and the Pacific; advances energy security, DOE initiatives

On Jan. 6, 2004, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham departed the United States on travels to Tokyo and Osaka, Japan; Beijing, China; Manila, the Republic of the Philippines; and Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, to promote Department of Energy (DOE) initiatives. President Bush initiated Secretary Abraham's visit to the Philippines during his earlier visit to Southeast Asia to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting,

Japan visit

In Tokyo, Secretary Abraham held discussions on energy security, investment, technology and nuclear development with Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Gioji Sakamoto; Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Takeo Kawamura; Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoriko Kawaguchi; Toshiba Corp. Chairman Taizo Nishimuro; and other senior government officials. Secretary Abraham also addressed the Keidanren, Japan's major industrial association, and met with U.S. business executives. In Osaka, Secretary Abraham met with Yohsaku Fuji, Chairman, Federation of Electric Power Companies, to discuss restructuring electricity markets and investment in energy infrastructure.

On Jan. 9 in Tokyo, Secretary Abraham and Senior Vice Minister Sakamoto signed a joint statement of intent to pursue pre-competitive research and development in the field of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies. The two countries intend to bring together officials and technical experts to participate in workshops and seminars, and exchange experts and share information on current policies and technological programs and developments.

Beijing, China

In Beijing, Secretary Abraham met with Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan to discuss energy issues of mutual interest. He also held discussions with Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua, National Development Reform Commission Chairman Ma Kai, and China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) Chairman Zhang Huazhu.

On Jan. 12, Secretary Abraham and CAEA Chairman Zhang Huazhu affirmed their commitment to recent understandings reached by the U.S. and China to increase cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation, security, and counterterrorism. The Statement of Intent between DOE and CAEA establishes a process for cooperation with each other and for collaborating with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Also on Jan. 12, Secretary Abraham and China Minister Xu Guanhua and Beijing Vice Mayor Fan signed a Green Olympic Protocol for the 2008 Olympic Games. Secretary Abraham also participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first energy efficient building demonstration project in Beijing. The project will lead to more widespread use of clean energy technologies in the city and throughout China.

"This energy efficient building demonstrates how the U.S. and China can work together to promote clean energy solutions," Secretary Abraham said. "I hope that the Green Olympic Protocol for Beijing's 2008 Olympic Games...will further deepen our joint efforts to improve Beijing's air quality and environment."

The Philippines

Secretary Abraham continued his travels to the Republic of the Philippines, where he met with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 13 at the Malacanang Palace in Manila. This was the first trip to the Philippines by a U.S. Secretary

of Energy and the first visit by a Cabinet member since President Bush's state visit last October.

That same day in Manila, Secretary Abraham, Philippine Secretary of Energy Vicente Perez, and U.S. Agency for International Development Mission Director Michael Yates signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the Sustainable Energy Development Program between the two countries and to promote the use of cleaner-burning fuels in vehicles. "The Philippines and the United States share a long tradition of close friendship and cooperation, which is exemplified in our agreement to pursue energy initiatives of mutual benefit to enhance each country's energy security," Secretary Abraham said.

Secretary Abraham also participated in a "Lights On" ceremony for the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) Program. The project aims to bring electricity to more than 5,000 homes in 160 remote communities by December 2004.

Australia

In Australia on Jan. 16, Secretary Abraham joined Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources Ian McFarlane and leaders of Australian liquefied natural gas (LNG) companies in a roundtable to further explore expanding the natural gas trade between the U.S. and Australia and working to remove barriers to increased LNG commercial opportunities. Secretary Abraham also met and participated with Minister for the Environment and Heritage David Kemp in the Hydrogen, Renewable Energy and Business in Climate Action Partnership Roundtable.

Additional information on the visit and Secretary Abraham's remarks at various events are available at <http://www.energy.gov>, click on "Press Room," and then click on "Press Releases" and "Speeches." ♦

DOE's proposed FY 2005 budget supports enhanced national, energy security

On Feb. 2, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham released the Department of Energy's (DOE) \$24.3 billion budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. The Department's proposed FY 2005 budget is the largest thus far and continues to support President Bush's commitment to national security, energy security, science, and the environment.

"Upon taking office, President Bush made a commitment to accelerate environmental cleanup, promote energy security and reduce the nation's dependence on imported energy, maintain the strength and viability of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and double the commitment to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction," Secretary Abraham said. "After three years of progress, this work is at a critical juncture which requires financial commitment."

The proposed FY 2005 budget supports Secretary Abraham's mission and priorities for the Department. As part of DOE's strategic planning process, these priorities translate into four overlapping goals: defense, energy, science, and environment. The FY 2005 budget request for these four goals totals \$23.5 billion; the remaining \$0.8 billion covers corporate management activities and other supporting organizations.

Under the defense goal, the FY 2005 budget request includes \$9.0 billion for DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This is a \$383 million or 4.4 percent increase above FY 2004. Included in the budget request is \$6.6 billion for weapons activities, an increase of \$335 million from the FY 2004 enacted level; \$1.35 billion for the nuclear nonproliferation program, a \$15 million increase; and \$798 million for the naval reactors program, a four percent increase.

The FY 2005 budget request under the energy goal, which totals \$2.5 billion, will broaden the



Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham responds to a reporter's question at the Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2005 budget briefing. Joining him are Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow (left) and Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment Robert Card.

Department's energy security portfolio to expand the nation's energy supply. This amount is essentially level with the FY 2004 funding. Included in the request is \$228 million for the Department's hydrogen program, \$287 million for the Clean Coal Power Initiative—a 60 percent increase over the FY 2004 level, \$410 million for the nuclear energy program, \$91 million to support efforts to modernize and expand the nation's electricity delivery system, and \$291 million for the weatherization assistance program.

Funding of \$3.4 billion is requested in FY 2005 for fundamental scientific research within the science goal, an increase of about two percent. This request includes \$209 million to continue the revolution of nanoscience research, \$264 million for fusion science research, and \$68 million for research on microbes through the Genomes to Life program.

The FY 2005 budget request includes \$8.6 billion to support the goal of protecting the environment.

The request includes more than \$7.4 billion for the Environmental Management (EM) program, a \$426 million increase over the last fiscal year. FY 2005 is the peak funding year for the EM accelerated cleanup and risk reduction strategy. Also included in the request is \$907 million to continue with establishing a permanent high-level nuclear waste repository, \$66 million for the Office of Legacy Management, \$8 million for the creation of a new Office of Future Liabilities, and \$43 million to maintain the accelerated schedule for Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 activities.

Additional information on the Department's FY 2005 budget request is available through a link on the main DOE home page at <http://www.energy.gov>, or by clicking on "Press Releases" at that site, or at <http://www.mbe.doe.gov/budget/05budget/index.htm>. ❖

Isotope production facility dedicated at LANL

Officials gathered at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on Jan. 12, 2004, to dedicate the Nation's newest isotope production facility located at Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE). Participating in the ceremony were William D. Magwood IV, Director of DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE); LANL Director Pete Nanos; U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman; and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson.

Speaking before 150 invited guests, Magwood applauded the laboratory's success in completing the first dedicated isotope facility in more than 20 years. He also noted the more than 50,000 hours of construction on the facility without a single lost workday.

The facility, built over the last five years, houses a new beam line and equipment needed to direct part of the 100 million electron volt proton beam from the existing LANSCE accelerator to a new target station designed exclusively for the production of isotopes. LANSCE delivered the first proton beam to the new facility at 11:34 p.m., Dec. 23, 2003.

When the \$23 million state-of-the-art facility reaches full-scale production

later this spring, it will greatly enhance the security of supply of short-lived medical isotopes in the United States. The new facility will allow the production of more than 30 different types of isotopes in significant quantities. It also provides the flexibility to insert and retrieve targets while the LANSCE accelerator continues to operate in support of vital science and national security missions.

Some of the key isotopes that will be produced by the facility include copper 67, arsenic-73, germanium-68, and strontium-82. These isotopes are important to the treatment of cancer and other illnesses because



William Magwood, Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, cuts a cake at the dedication. Joining him (l-r) are Ralph Erickson, Manager, NNSA/Los Alamos; New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson; Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Director Pete Nanos; U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman; and Tom Meyer, LANL Associate Director for Strategic Research.

they can be targeted directly to the cancer with minimal side effects and their short half-lives assure they do not remain in vital organs. Also, hospitals and research institutions across the nation use isotopes such as germanium-68 daily to calibrate medical imaging equipment.

For more information on DOE's isotope program, visit the NE web site at <http://www.nuclear.gov>. ❖

Fly me to the moons - of Jupiter

Working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy's Y-12 National Security Complex, a National Nuclear Security Administration facility, is developing spacecraft technology for long-term interplanetary exploration. Over the next year, Y-12 will be working on the first phase of a four-phase project.

The initial mission will be to explore three of Jupiter's moons. The icy moons Europa, Callisto, and Ganymede are thought to hold the most promise for life in the solar system and form the core of the study for the Jupiter Icy Moon Orbiter mission.

A small nuclear reactor, generating upwards of 100 kilowatts of

electricity, powers the spacecraft's mission systems and provides ion thruster propulsion for the 370-million-mile, eight-year trip. Y-12's primary role is to assist NASA in the engineering and fabrication of the radiation shield for the space reactor. This shield protects the orbiter's science payload and electronics from the intense radiation generated by the reactor.

More than 10 years ago, Y-12 was involved in a series of NASA programs related to the nuclear space program. The first space reactor launched by the United States, the SNAP 10A, had a shield that was made at Y-12. Y-12 also was involved closely in the shield design,

materials evaluation, and fabrication assessment for SP100, the latest and largest space reactor program.

The shield Y-12 hopes to fabricate for the Jupiter mission will be nothing like the heavy, conventional radiation shields used for conventional reactors. The innovative shield design will be relatively small—roughly the size of two laundry tubs.

Y-12 also will provide the enriched uranium to fuel the reactor powering the orbiter. The engineering and fabrication expertise of Y-12 may be relied upon to support various portions of the reactor and related components of the nuclear subsystem as well. ❖

Department leads OMB management scorecard

The Department of Energy (DOE) ranked first among Cabinet-level agencies in the most recent scorecard to assess implementation of the President's Management Agenda (PMA). DOE and the Office of Personnel Management have made the most progress since the launch of the PMA in August 2001. The scorecard, issued Jan. 29, 2004, by the Office of Management and Budget, evaluates agency performance in the areas of human capital, competitive sourcing, financial

management, e-government, and budget/performance integration.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment and I want to thank each of you for the role you have played in helping the Department achieve this success," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said in a message to employees. "Without your hard work and dedication, this achievement would not have been possible."

The Department was recognized for improving its performance in all areas that are the focus of the PMA.

OMB particularly noted that DOE knows what skills are needed to accomplish its mission and is working to reduce gaps in those skills, competitive sourcing is being established as a sound management practice, audited financial statements are being issued in an accelerated timeframe, multiple management systems are being integrated into one—I-MANAGE, and deficiencies in program performance are being addressed and good performance measures are being set. ❖

Line crews at the Department of Energy's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) worked two days in cold, wet and snowy weather to connect a new 500-kilovolt line into the Federal power grid that serves the Pacific Northwest. The line was placed into service on New Year's Eve 2003, just ahead of a major cold snap and winter storm in the Puget Sound area. "We got it into service just in time to meet record-high loads driven by the current cold weather," Vickie VanZandt, BPA's chief engineer said.

BPA markets the power from the huge hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River Basin and moves about 75 percent of the power used in the Pacific Northwest over the 1,500 miles of the Federal grid system. The new Kangley-Echo Lake 500 kilovolt line is the first major new line BPA has built since 1987. The nine-mile line beefs up the Puget Sound area grid where the sprawling Seattle, Wash., metropolitan area growth has required grid system upgrades to ensure reliable flow of power. With this project, BPA has spent \$98 million in the past two years to strengthen the grid that serves Puget Sound.

The top photograph shows three linemen working on the new power line 220 feet above the ground. The crew is seen close-up in the bottom photograph. ❖



Richland Operations reports progress of spent nuclear fuel project

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office in Washington reports progress in the Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) project. DOE-Richland contractor Fluor Hanford has moved more than three-fourths of the spent nuclear fuel that was stored at the K Basins to safe, dry, interim storage, away from the Columbia River.

Since SNF project operations began in December 2000, approximately 77 percent of the original 2,100 metric tons of spent fuel that had been stored under water in both the K West and K East Basins has been loaded into Multi-Canister Overpacks (MCO), dried at the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility, and placed into storage at the Canister Storage Building. The remaining fuel, about 480 metric

tons, will fill about 83 MCO's. A total of 300 have been filled to date. MCO crews at the K West Basin, where storage-preparation processes take place, have been hard at work reducing the average processing time for an MCO from over 80 hours to less than 45 hours. Recently, an MCO was processed in fewer than 35 hours.

All of the fuel originally stored in the K West Basin has been removed. Crews set three records in December 2003 and January 2004 for the Fuel Transfer System, which workers use to move fuel from the K East Basin to the K West Basin for loading. Ten shipments from K East to K West were made the week ending Dec. 14, 2003, the most in one week; a total of 29 shipments were safely



Spent nuclear fuel stored under water at the Hanford Site.

completed in December 2003; and a record three shipments were made in one day on Jan. 11, 2004.

All of the spent nuclear fuel is scheduled to be moved out of the basins by this summer. ❖

INCITE supercomputer projects selected

Three key computational science projects have been chosen by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science to receive a total of 4.9 million hours of supercomputing time at the Department's National Energy Research Scientific Computing (NERSC) Center located at DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in California. The projects were selected under the new Innovative and Novel Computational Impact on Theory and Experiment (INCITE) program, which was announced in July 2003 by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

The goal of the program was to select a small number of computationally intensive, large-scale research projects that can make high-impact scientific advances through the use of a substantial allocation of computer time and data storage at the NERSC Center. The INCITE program specifically encouraged proposals from universities and other research institutions.

A total of 52 proposals were submitted, with more than 60 percent

from academic researchers, requesting a total of more than 130 million hours of supercomputer processor time. The awards amount to 10 percent of the total computing time available this year on NERSC's current IBM supercomputer.

"From the outset, our goal was to develop scientific discovery through high end computation," Secretary Abraham said. "The number and quality of the proposals we received show that this promise is shared by our colleagues in the scientific community worldwide."

The three projects selected by the INCITE review team are:

- "Thermonuclear Supernovae: Stellar Explosions in Three Dimensions"; project led by Tomasz Olewa, Center for Astrophysical Thermonuclear Flashes, University of Chicago, in collaboration with DOE's Argonne National Laboratory; awarded 2.7 million processor hours.
- "Fluid Turbulence and Mixing at High Reynolds Number"; project

led by P.K. Yeung, Georgia Institute of Technology; awarded 1.2 million processor hours.

- "Quantum Monte Carlo Study of Photoprotection via Carotenoids in Photosynthetic Centers"; project led by William A. Lester, Jr., of LBNL and the University of California at Berkeley; awarded one million processor hours.

"The level of interest in INCITE demonstrates the need for additional high end computation capability," Dr. Raymond L. Orbach, Director, DOE Office of Science, said. "We believe the three projects, chosen from a superb combination of proposals, will demonstrate the consequences of these resources to the entire international scientific community."

Established in 1974, the NERSC Center has long been a leader in providing systems, services, and expertise to advance computational science. For more information, visit <http://www.nersc.gov>. ❖

Department celebrates legacy of Dr. King



The annual program to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was held Jan. 20, 2004, at Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters, Washington, D.C. The program, the first in the annual Special Emphasis Programs sponsored by the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED), was simulcast to the Germantown, Md., site.

Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow welcomed DOE employees and introduced keynote speaker Dr. Louis W. Sullivan, President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga., and former Secretary of Health and Human Services. Deputy Secretary McSlarrow talked about Dr. King's vision of a nation that could see beyond race and examine its conscience to accept all people as equal. Dr. Sullivan charged DOE employees to "...find ways to carry out the King legacy and to invest in young people and in our country."

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Sullivan was presented DOE's Special Recognition Award. In the photograph, l-r, are Theresa Alvilarr-Speake, Director, ED; Deputy Secretary McSlarrow; and Dr. Sullivan. ❖

Livermore Lab promotes commuter energy conservation



Efforts at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to conserve energy by promoting transportation alternatives for commuters are showing results. The laboratory has saved an estimated \$1.4 million in fuel costs due to employees' extensive use of carpools, public transportation, and bicycles on site.

The efforts also have earned the laboratory two Federal energy awards. LLNL's Transportation Systems Management Program (TSMP) received the 2003 Federal Energy and Water Management Award and DOE's 2003 Departmental Energy Management Award.

In the photograph, Mishell Pendleton (left), Superintendent of Fleet Management at LLNL, and Beverlee Morales, TSMP Administrator, display some of the transportation alternatives offered by the laboratory. ❖

INEEL expertise aids cleanup of Black Hills mine waste



The Black Hills Gilt Edge Mine near Sturgis, S.D., is some 700 miles from the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). But sensors at the mine waste site are providing nearly real-time information to scientists in Idaho about how well a remediation action is working.

An acid-generating rock dump capped with geotextile material and soil is among several waste areas at the mine. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs to assess how effectively the cap is performing. To do this, INEEL scientists developed a monitoring system of 500 surface sensors and eight instrumented wells placed under the cap. In the photograph, well housings containing the monitoring system are seen in the right foreground and center.

The instruments collect information and send it via the Internet to the INEEL database. Besides helping EPA monitor the mine waste remediation, the data will help INEEL scientists improve their understanding of water and chemical behavior beneath waste caps and barriers. ❖

Waste solutions leave Savannah River F Area

Depleted uranyl nitrate (DUN) solution, which has been stored in the F and H Areas at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, is being shipped to Permafix MEC, Oak Ridge, Tenn. About 140,000 gallons of DUN and 60,000 gallons of PUREX (plutonium and uranium extraction) solvent solutions are being shipped offsite. At right, the first shipment of DUN leaves F Area in mid January 2004. Shipments will continue through February.

DUN is a byproduct of operations. PUREX solvents were used in the chemical separations process. F Canyon completed all planned operations in March 2002. FB Line completed PUREX operations at the same time, but is still working to package and stabilize materials for long-term storage. In November 2003, DOE ordered the full deactivation of F Canyon. ❖



Soil move completes Fernald Operable Unit 2

Crews, at right, recently removed 35,000 cubic yards of soil and debris from the closed Solid Waste Landfill at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fernald Closure Project. Movement of the material to the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF) completes the remediation of one of the site's five operable units.

Operable Unit 2 included the Solid Waste Landfill, lime sludge ponds, fly ash piles, and a 26-acre area on the southern edge of the site. In 1995, DOE, Fluor Fernald, regulators, and stakeholders agreed upon the final cleanup plans for this operable unit. Excavation began in 1997. A total of 510,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris were removed and placed in the OSDF, which is designed to hold 2.5 million cubic yards of material. Later this year, the landfill area will be sampled to verify that the remaining soil meets established Environmental Protection Agency cleanup levels. ❖



E-85 alternative fueling station dedicated at Oak Ridge

At a recent dedication ceremony, Congressman Zach Wamp (R-TN) pumped the first gallon of Ethanol-85 fuel from the new alternative fueling station just completed at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Federal Building. Gerald Boyd (left), Manager, Oak Ridge Operations, and Mark Deathridge, President, East Tennessee Mechanical Contractors, also participated in the event.

The Federal Building E-85 tank station is the third to be built on DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation. Two other alternative fuel stations are located at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

All three stations house Ethanol-85 fuel for the fleet of 148 flex fuel vehicles used by Federal and contractor personnel. At present, a total of 17,000 gallons of Ethanol-85 fuel are stored in the three stations. It is anticipated that the Oak Ridge fleet of E-85 vehicles will reach 75 percent by 2005. ❖



Updated tritium facility begins 'hot' testing

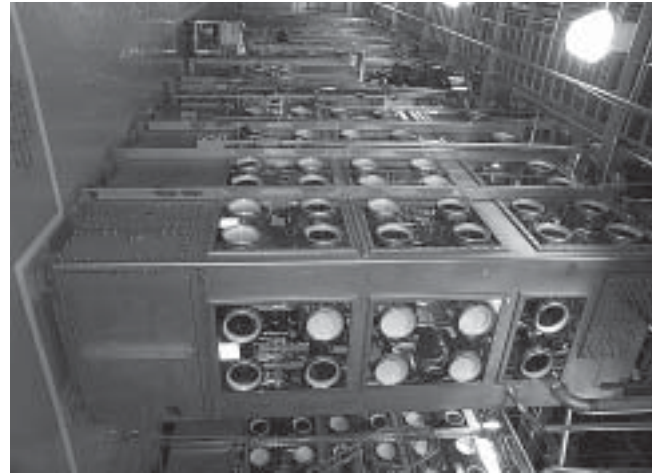
The Tritium Facility Modernization and Consolidation Project (TCON) at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site recently passed another major milestone, receiving permission to begin "hot" (radioactive) testing in 233-H, one of two newly modified facilities. Receipt of approval follows years of hard work by the project team to design, procure, install, and test the new facility and to train operating personnel. "Hot" testing began Dec. 10, 2003.

The startup process for the modified 233-H facility included a series of evaluations, which began with the September 2002 Tiger Team review. A Management Self Assessment; then the Westinghouse Savannah River Company Operational Readiness Review (ORR); and, finally, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) ORR, an independent external review completed in November 2003, followed that review.

The NNSA ORR resulted in only one pre-start finding, which was

closed within two days. The review team praised the project team, including facility operations, for its good conduct of operations culture, excellent fire safety and housekeeping, and knowledgeable and experienced personnel who demonstrated good ownership of the new processes.

The TCON project was undertaken to consolidate tritium processes into fewer buildings, allowing the deactivation of the nearly 50-year-old 232-H building. In addition to improving productivity and significantly reducing future operating costs, the consolidated facilities will provide the capabilities to process hydrogen isotopes from the new Tritium Extraction Facility now under construction.



Hot testing of tritium processes is under way in the newly modified 233-H facility.

Construction of the Metallography Laboratory, the other major portion of the project, was completed in April 2003; and cold testing is in progress. That facility's evaluation process, which involves only a Tiger Team review and a Readiness Assessment, was scheduled to begin in January 2004. ❖

Fossil Energy facilities perfect on safety

Employees at the Department of Energy's Naval Petroleum Reserve (NPR) No. 3 and Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center (RMOTC) in Wyoming recently celebrated one year without a recordable injury or illness. Commending the employees for their commitment to safety, Director Clarke Turner, in the photograph, said he considered this achievement to be one of the most significant accomplishments in the history of the site.

Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Michael Smith noted that, "Due to the hazardous nature of work at any oil field operation, a zero injury rate is rare. This outstanding safety accomplishment is the result of the commitment, proactive planning, and ingenuity of all site employees."

The perfect safety record was achieved through management's

emphasis on zero tolerance for unsafe work habits and reinforced by ensuring that each employee received appropriate safety training. Also, it was mandated that all employees meet at the beginning of each day to discuss the day's work schedule and any potential hazards involved.

Two new safety programs were implemented. First, job hazard analysis was used as a pre-project planning tool to help recognize and mitigate hazards or safety concerns. This allowed the safety department to provide guidance to field employees and expectations to industry partners as they interacted with work crews. Second, a near-miss program provided a record for events that could have become recordable accidents by



tracking, trending, identifying, and eliminating hazards.

Implementation of these programs resulted in an increased awareness of safety throughout the field operations and led to NPR/RMOTC's success in achieving zero incidents. For additional information on the programs, contact Janet Boulanger, 307-261-5000. ❖

Anthrax and other potentially deadly biological agents pose considerable threats to the military and the public, but researchers at the Department of Energy's **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** think they have a quick and safe cure. In a matter of seconds, the ultraviolet portion of an arc plasma lamp can kill the bacteria because it destroys the cells' DNA. Up to 10 percent of the lab's 300,000-watt lamp is in the ultraviolet spectrum, making it far more lethal to bacteria than lower-powered mercury vapor and xenon lamps. The researchers also believe the lamp can be used to neutralize chemical warfare agents on, for example, buildings, tanks or barracks. (Ron Walli, 865-576-0226)

Scientists at the Department of Energy's **Brookhaven National Laboratory** have developed a compact linear accelerator that uses laser light to accelerate electrons with better efficiency and energy characteristics than ever before. The experimental device, called Staged Electron Laser Acceleration (STELLA), is a step forward in accelerator development and may help electron accelerators become practical tools for applications in industry and medicine, such as radiation therapy for cancer patients. (Karen McNulty Walsh, 631-344-8350)



Scientists from the Glenn T. Seaborg Institute and the Chemical Biology and Nuclear Science Division

at the Department of Energy's **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**, in collaboration with researchers from the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) in Russia, report they have discovered the two newest super heavy elements—element 113 and element 115. In experiments conducted at the JINR U400 cyclotron with the Dubna gas-filled separator between July 14 and Aug. 10, 2003, the team of scientists observed atomic decay patterns, or chains, that confirm the existence of the two elements. In these decay chains, element 113 is produced via the alpha decay of element 115. The results have been accepted for publication in the Feb. 1, 2004, issue of *Physical Review C*. (Anne M. Stark (925-422-9799) ❖

Lab contracts to be extended, competed

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced on Jan. 30, 2004, that it plans to extend and compete the management and operating contracts for several DOE science and national defense laboratories. Information regarding the contract competitions will be announced when appropriate.

"The Department's science and national defense laboratories are the foundation for scientific discovery in this country. Sound management of these facilities is important to our continued scientific pursuits as well as America's national security," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "I have shared with the Department's management team that it is my belief that a competitive environment is generally desirable for the effective and efficient operation of our labs, in order to help ensure that the taxpayers' investment in our lab community is allocated wisely and effectively."

The laboratories and decisions are:

- **Ames Laboratory:** Contract expires Dec. 31, 2004; to be extended 24 months; competition and new contract award by Sept. 30, 2006.
- **Argonne National Laboratory:** Contract expires Sept. 30, 2004; to be extended 24 months; competition and new contract award by Sept. 30, 2006.
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory:** Contract recently competed; renewal option will be exercised due to laboratory's superior performance; contract now expires April 3, 2008.
- **Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory:** Contract expires Dec. 31, 2006; competition and new contract award by that date.
- **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory:** Contract expired Jan. 30, 2004; extended for 12 months; competition and new contract award by Jan. 31, 2005.
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory:** Contract will be competed as previously announced; details to be provided at a later date.
- **Los Alamos National Laboratory:** Contract will be competed as previously announced; schedule remains the same; new contract award by Sept. 30, 2005.
- **National Renewable Energy Laboratory:** Contract competitive option exercised; contractor Midwest Research Institute rated superior and will manage laboratory four additional years beyond current contract expiration date of Nov. 8, 2004.
- **Stanford Linear Accelerator Center:** Contract administered by Stanford University expires March 29, 2004; to be extended three years and six months.
- **Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility:** Contract expiring Sept. 30, 2004, to be extended 12 months; competition and new contract award by Sept. 30, 2005. ❖

School boards honor EnergySmart Schools

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) has formally endorsed Rebuild America/EnergySmart Schools, a Department of Energy (DOE) program. The program's nationwide network brings together school boards, energy service companies, and DOE experts to improve school buildings, educate students, and save money.

At a DOE Headquarters ceremony Jan. 28, 2004, NSBA President Carol Brown praised the program for "using a holistic approach to improving the teaching and learning environment by providing resources to encourage healthy high-performance schools and energy education for the consumers of tomorrow." DOE is the first Federal agency to receive this official endorsement.

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham accepted the NSBA endorsement at the ceremony. "At a time when states, cities, and school districts are facing strained budgets, it is especially important to save money where possible," Secretary Abraham said.

Rebuild America/EnergySmart Schools is managed by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The program is helping K-12 schools nationwide save \$76 million a year in energy expenses by increasing energy



At the endorsement ceremony are (l-r) Blanche Sheinkopf, EnergySmart Schools; Dan Sze, Rebuild America, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE); Carol Brown, President, National School Boards Association (NSBA); Secretary Abraham; Anne Bryant, Executive Director, NSBA; and Margo Appel, EnergySmart Schools, EE.

efficiency, installing renewable energy systems, improving the comfort of buildings, and reducing air pollution.

NSBA represents 14,890 public school systems serving more than 47 million students. Its five-year endorsement could span the

improvement of thousands of school buildings with the program's help.

DOE programs are welcome to contribute to and utilize this endorsement opportunity. For further information on the program, visit <http://www.energysmartschools.gov>. ❖

NEW Publications

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Performance and Accountability Report FY 2003 includes information on the Department's financial, management, and programmatic results for the fiscal year (FY). The report presents how DOE is using its resources; explains the connection between mission, goals, and performance targets; and describes how DOE is working to better serve American citizens. For the fifth consecutive year, the

Department has received an unqualified audit opinion on its FY 2003 financial statements from the independent public accounting firm KPMG LLP. The report is available at <http://www.mbe.doe.gov/progliaison/doe03par.pdf>.

Office of Inspector General (IG) reports: ***The McNeil Biomass Project*** (DOE/IG-0630); ***Implementation of Indications, Warning, Analysis and Reporting Capability*** (DOE/IG-0631); ***Modernization***

of Tritium Requirements Systems (DOE/IG-0632); ***Cold Standby Program at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant*** (DOE/IG-0633); ***Safeguards Over Sensitive Technology*** (DOE/IG-0635); ***Protective Force Performance Test Improvements*** (DOE/IG-0636). The reports are available from the U.S. Department of Energy, IG Reports Request Line, 202-586-2744, or at <http://www.ig.doe.gov>. ❖

Clark Atlanta University is the first Historically Black College or University (HBCU) to be selected by the Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) as a protégé. A special signing ceremony was held Dec. 10, 2003, at the Department of Energy's (DOE) **Savannah River Site**. The WSRC Mentor-Protégé program fosters long-term business relationships to assist small disadvantaged businesses, HBCU's, women-owned small businesses, DOE Savannah River, and other DOE sites. As a HBCU protégé, Clark Atlanta will work with WSRC to become Environmental Management Consolidated Audit Program (MCAP) certified for work at other DOE sites and in the commercial industry, and will gain valuable experience in doing business with a government facility.



Twenty-one college students explored environmental science and technology and learned about the cutting-edge research performed at the Department of Energy's (DOE) **Brookhaven National Laboratory**

(BNL) in an intensive one-week program during their winter break, Jan. 12-16, 2004. Funded by DOE's Office of Science as a means of developing the nation's workforce of teachers and scientists, the mini-semester program aims to ignite student interest in science and technology. Highlights of the students' visit included lectures and discussions on environmental science and technology and tours of several of BNL's research facilities. All of the students completed a research project. The college mini-semester program has been offered to students selected from schools affiliated through partnerships with BNL since 1976.



Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Michael Smith gave middle and elementary school students at Rishel Middle School in Denver, Colo., a glimpse into the future Feb. 4 by **demonstrating hydrogen fuel technologies** designed to reduce pollution and end America's dependence on foreign oil. Smith welcomed the opportunity to teach a Spanish

science class in addition to a science class taught in English. He also demonstrated a hydrogen-powered model car and explained the hydrogen fuel cell process. Senior Department of Energy officials are visiting schools around the nation to educate students about hydrogen in support of the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative.



Mexican President Vicente Fox recently presented Mexico's most prestigious youth award to Gerardo Chowell-Puente, a graduate student in the Theoretical Division of the Department of Energy's **Los Alamos National Laboratory**, for his studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and other epidemics. The National Prize for Youth awarded by the Mexican Institute of Youth recognizes Chowell-Puente's cumulative academic activities, including research, publications, invited talks, awards, and community service. The award includes a signed diploma, a gold medal, and 110,000 Mexican pesos (more than \$9,800). ❖

Nuclear material removed from Bulgaria

Seventeen kilograms of Russian-origin highly enriched uranium (HEU) were returned from Bulgaria to the Russian Federation on Dec. 23, 2003, to be down-blended. This was one of several successful efforts by the Department of Energy (DOE)-funded Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return Initiative.

"The Bush Administration has taken the lead on nonproliferation efforts to help make our world safer," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "With U.S. leadership and through cooperation and determination with other nations, a more secure world is eventually attainable."

The highly enriched nuclear fuel assemblies were originally supplied to Bulgaria by the former Soviet Union for the Russian-designed two-megawatt research reactor located in Sofia. The reactor was shut down in 1989 and is going to be reconstructed. The nuclear fuel was loaded into four fresh fuel transportation canisters provided by the Russian Federation. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards inspectors and DOE technical experts monitored the process of loading the fuel in the canisters. An AN-12 Russian cargo plane was used to complete

the air shipment of the HEU fuel from Bulgaria.

"The Bulgarians have shown leadership as they have cooperated with the U.S., Russia, and the IAEA in seeking ways to reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation, including the return of HEU from Bulgaria to Russia," Linton Brooks, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, said. "Along with the decision to return fresh HEU to Russia, the Bulgarian government also has made a decision to reconstruct the existing research reactor in Sofia to low enriched uranium fuel." ❖

People IN ENERGY

The American Physical Society recently presented its 2003 Award for Excellence in Plasma Physics Research to

Siegfried Glenzer, plasma physics group leader for the National Ignition Facility project at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Glenzer was recognized for advancing the understanding of the complex plasma environment in laser driven hohlraums used in inertial confinement fusion by using collective Thomson scattering together with X-ray spectroscopy.



Nadine Horner has been named External Relations Officer at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Most recently, Horner was President and CEO of the Livermore (Calif.) Chamber of Commerce. Previously, she was with the American Society of Association Executives in Washington, D.C.

Eric D. Isaacs has been appointed Director of the Center for Nanoscale Materials (CNM) at the Department of Energy's Argonne National

Laboratory. Isaacs will guide the implementation of CNM research and user programs, prioritize equipment selection, and oversee the center's construction over the next three years. He is the past director of the Semiconductor Physics Research and Material Physics Research Departments at Bell Labs.

Masaaki Yamada, Head of the Magnetic Reconnection Experiment research program at the Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) (top photograph), and **Hantao Ji**, a Principal Research Physicist at PPPL, are the recipients of the Kaul Prize for Excellence in Plasma Physics Research and Technology Development. Princeton University awards the Kaul Prize in recognition of recent outstanding technical achievements in plasma physics or technology development by a full-time, regular employee of PPPL.



Brenda Hawks of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations Office has received the 2003 Price-Anderson Enforcement National Coordinator of the Year Award for her dedication and contributions to the Department's nuclear safety enforcement program. The award was presented at DOE's annual Price-Anderson Amendments Act conference held in Las Vegas, Nev., in December 2003.

Barbara Tenorio-Grimes of the Government Relations Office at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and **Roger Byrd** of LANL's Space and Atmospheric Sciences Group have received 2003 community service awards from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. The award recognizes commitment, service, and dedication to the society, which bridges science and technology with traditional Native American values.

Wu-Tsung Weng, Head of the Center for Accelerator Physics at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been elected a 2004 Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). Weng was recognized for his leadership in particle accelerator development. ❖

Office of Legacy Management in operation

The Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management (LM), established Dec. 15, 2003, is responsible for the long-term care of legacy liabilities of former nuclear weapons production sites following completion of the environmental management cleanup effort. Programs of a similar nature from the Office of Worker and Community Transition and portions of the Office of Environmental Management have been incorporated into LM. Personnel

are located in Washington, D.C.; Germantown, Md.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Morgantown, W.Va.; and Grand Junction, Colo.

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham named Michael W. Owen to head up the new LM office. Owen most recently was Director of the Office of Worker and Community Transition. He reports directly to Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment Robert Card.

The establishment of the Office of Legacy Management demonstrates the Department's commitment to manage sites where active remediation has been completed, as well as its commitment to the contractor work force that will be affected by changing Department missions. The new office is a significant step to ensuring the long-term protection of human health and the environment. ❖

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

February 2004

Headquarters

Counterintelligence – Robert D. Duncan (25 years). **EIA** – William F. Blackmore, Jr. (30), Christine D. Briscoe (30), Nathaniel R. Kass (25), Inderjit Kundra (25), Patricia A. Smith (25). **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy** – Theresa R. Chase (40), William J. Raup (35). **Environmental Management** – Patrick J. Noone (35), Gwendolyn T. Rollins (30). **Environment, Safety & Health** – Brian D. Mills (30).

FERC – Daniel V. Plumb (35), Rossell Glasgow, Jr. (30), Valerie T. Mersier (30), Patrick R. Crowley (25), Sandra J. Delude (25), Jack E. Donaho, Jr. (25), Rafael L. Montag (25), Virginia Strasser (25). **Fossil Energy** – Miles A. Greenbaum (30), Charles J. Roy (30). **General Counsel** – Vivian L. Louallen (30).

Management, Budget & Evaluation – Karen G. Adams (30), Catherine E. Carpenter (30), Denise B. Diggin (30), Dallas D. Woodruff (30), Jeffrey A. Dowell (25), James H. Lee (25). **NNSA** – Armando Chavez (30), Celestine G. Harris (30), Ida L. Telles (30), Bernardino B. Trujillo (30), Melissa P. Maestas (25), Renee M. Wilhite (25).

Nuclear Energy – Robert C. Raczynski (45). **Policy & International** – Robert C. Marlay (35). **Public Affairs** – Arlene L. Estep (35). **Radioactive Waste** – Jay G. Jones (25), Mark E. Van Der Puy (25), Jeffrey R. Williams (25). **Science** – Nelia A. Davies (30), Clarence R. Hickey (30). **Security** – James A. Wendt (30).

Field

Bonneville Power – Michael J. Berger (35), Tom B. Branderhorst (35), Michael Hofmann (35), Ricky B. Poon (35), David G. Beck (30), Jared G. Goddard (30), Jerry R. Haxby (30), Cynthia A. Hutchison (30), Orla R. Kirking-Kahl (30), Timothy J. Murray (30), Roland Trevino (30), William M. Blackburn (25), John P. Fazio (25), Geraldine K. Mason (25), Russell L. Moad (25), Del A. Niemeyer (25), Charlotte O. Scott (25), Wayne A. Senner (25), Ramona R. Swann (25).

Chicago – Gary L. Pitchford (35), George L. Cava (25). **Idaho** – Scott D. Applonie (25), Robert S. Coombs (25). **Kansas City Site/NNSA** – Curtis A. Roth (25). **NNSA Service Center** – Maria T. Loschke (30), Theresa G. Perez (30), Katherine Y. Hart

(25), Patricia A. Serna (25). **Oak Ridge** – Dianna F. Feireisel (30). **Oakland/NNSA** – June C. Schwabe (25). **Ohio** – Peter W. Greenwalt (30).

Southwestern Power – Michael A.H. Walker (30). **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** – Michrell G. Waggoner (30). **Western Area Power** – Michael G. Baldwin (40), L. Michael Watkins (40), Rickey L. Carson (30), Roger A. Harris (30), Julia L. Kyriss (30), Hugh B. Starkey (30), Linda Thibodaux (30), Larry M. Barrailer (25), Gloria S. Davis (25), David L. Mapa (25), George W. McAlister (25), Robert E. Miller (25), Clara L. Schildt (25), Jamie J. Skehan (25).

RETIREMENTS

December 2003

Headquarters

Chief Information Officer – James F. King (14 years). **Economic Impact & Diversity** – Tyrone K. Levi (32), Lavon S. Pilson (33). **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy** – Lucito B. Cataquiz (12), Fred L. Hart (16), Ann W. Hegnauer (20), John P. Millhone (29). **Environmental Management** – Martha E. Chitwood (28), Janice D. Erickson (28), James K. Hancock (33), James K. Hartman (35), Edward J. Muszkiewicz (16), Lana B. Nichols (31), Carol A. Peabody (26), Margaret V. Price (28), Sally A. Robison (28), Sharon D. Ruehl (24), Gale P. Turi (30).

Environment, Safety & Health – David L. Anderson (32), Patricia A. Bean (35), Eleanor H. Crampton (36), Sharon R. Hurley (25), Thomas J. McCarron (27), Orin F. Pearson (16), Harry J. Pettengill (30), Jacques B.J. Read (29), Raymond Sanetrik (39), Richard J. Serbu (29), Robert M. Waters (22). **FERC** – William L. Massey (21). **General Counsel** – Vera I. Connolly (22). **Hearings & Appeals** – Joseph P. Robinson (28). **Radioactive Waste** – William J. Moore (17). **Science** – Sharon A. Bowser (29), Jacklin L. Moler (19), Isla R. Wells (32).

Field

Albany Research Center – Gerald E. Presley (12). **Albuquerque** – Patricia Tafoya (35). **Bonneville Power** – Donald A. Burgard (29), Loyce W. Morton (12), Robert W. Pirie (32), Gary N. Westling (42). **Carlsbad** – Michael L. Daugherty (28), Donna C. Eavenson (9), Jack E. Gilbert (29). **Chicago** – Sharon R. Ahlberg (16), Glen H. Bode (24), Patricia A. Campbell

(33), Richard J. Glowacki (32), Donna J. Heavens (20), V. Lia Stamoudis (14).

Idaho – Jackie I. Bateman (12), Richard Moore (21), Raymond B. Randolph (35). **NETL** – John R. Owen (17). **Nevada** – Ralph F. Smiecinski (12), Paul F. Tilman (24), Runore C. Wycoff (24). **Nevada Site/NNSA** – David L. Wheeler (23). **NNSA Service Center** – Robert J. McSherry (15). **Oak Ridge** – Ronald E. Adams (21), Barbara J. Holbert (20).

Ohio – Diane M. Aplin (26), Thomas A. Baillieul (24), Nathaniel Brown, Jr. (17), Sandra J. Burns (21), Linda J. Cable (9), Ruby I. Clark (41), Beverly A. Cole (28), Sandra E. Cramer (30), Robert J. Grandfield III (26), Jane M. Greenwalt (26), George A. Helm (37), Margaret E. Jennings (22), Linda J. Ketchum (25), Donald L. Lee (17), Judith A. Leuzinger (25), Kenneth L. Morgan (29), Carol J. Wilson (17), Harley R. Youngmeyer (27). **Pantex Site/NNSA** – Roger L. Moore (30), Garth D. Sanders (29).

Richland – Patricia A. Cassens (23), John M. Clark (31), Doroteo M. Collado (35), Nancy C. Crosby (16), Marvin J. Furman (34), Gary R. Giesick (20), Linda L. Giesick (15), Lyle E. Gilk (22), James P. Jarrett, Jr. (26), Narinder N. Kaushal (5), Paul J. Krupin (22), Bettye J. Milton (30), Raymond J. Myjak (40), Ervin J. Rasmussen (29), Nancy L. Schreckhise (22), Quentin J. Stanko (28), David W. Templeton (36), Robert R. Tibbatts (36), Judy L. Tokarz-Hames (31), Melvin J. Wicks (36), Deborah J. Williams (25).

Rocky Flats – Harold G. Armenta (31), Stephen J. Bolling (36), Laudino B. Buen (22), Wayne D. Burch (16), George R. Cannode (15), Robert T. Dembinski (21), William N. Fitch (32), Paul A. Gregorio (12), Mary O. Hammack (31), Michael D. Hargreaves (34), Keith W. Heavilin (15), James A. Jeffries (10), George R. Koch (31), Paul P. Langley (31), Gene W. McCarthy (24), Marcy A., Nicks (28), Gary D. Noss (31), Charlene R. Pazar (13), Edward A. Pietsch (36), Joseph E. Rau (34), Gary H. Reid (15), Allen W. Rigsby, Jr. (12), Wilda L. Sutter (37), Elizabeth A. Wilson (26).

Sandia Site/NNSA – James L. Robbins (33). **Savannah River** – William B. Brasel (33), John W. Poore (26), Donald E. Scott (32). **Western Area Power** – Charles J. Eriksen (39).

(The January 2004 retirees will be listed in the next issue.) ❖

New cleanup program office opens in Kentucky

On Jan. 16, 2004, the Department of Energy's (DOE) new Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office in Lexington, Ky., opened for business. Located approximately mid way between DOE's gaseous diffusion plants in Ohio and Kentucky, the office will oversee cleanup activities at the two facilities. DOE technical staff will continue to work at the sites. The project office also will be responsible for the Congressionally mandated decommissioning of depleted uranium tails at the sites, involving the conversion of over 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium to stable form.

"The Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office in Lexington, Ky., will address specific site challenges in Kentucky and Ohio more effectively," Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Jessie Roberson said. "By focusing our activities with this new office, DOE can accelerate cleanup to reduce risks to human health and the environment."

William Murphie heads the new office, reporting directly to Assistant Secretary Roberson. Previously, Murphie was Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Site Closure. He holds an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.S. in physics from Tulane University of New Orleans.

AROUND DOE

DOE financial services to be restructured

The Department of Energy's (DOE) financial services operations are being restructured as a result of a competitive sourcing study conducted by DOE as part of the President's Management Agenda. The Department's in-house bid was selected to continue to perform DOE's financial services, with significant consolidation of operations and expected taxpayer savings of \$31 million over five years.

The Department's bid reduces Federal and support contractor staff levels from about 181 personnel to 118 employees. In addition, operations will be consolidated from 15 locations nationwide to two major processing centers in Germantown, Md., and Oak Ridge, Tenn. Selected accounting services will be consolidated in Albuquerque, N.M., and limited residual operations will be performed at several DOE sites. The new streamlined organization will be operational by Oct. 1, 2004.

DOE, GSA commit to energy efficiency projects

Jim Powell, Director of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Atlanta Regional Office, and Ed Fielder, Regional Administrator of the General Services Administration's (GSA) Southeast Sunbelt Region, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The agreement formalizes a successful partnership that has achieved energy and dollar savings at Federal facilities across the Southeast United States.

The MOU includes commitments to work on at least four joint projects per year with specific goals for new building energy efficiency and achieving ENERGY STAR ratings for five additional buildings by 2005. The aim is for the Southeast to become the national leader in energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy use.

DOE and GSA previously identified 14 buildings in the region for improvements, and upgrading efforts are under way. Parts of the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center have been upgraded for energy efficiency. The goal is to transform the 1978 vintage million and a half square foot facility into GSA's second ENERGY STAR building in the Southeast and the first success story under the MOU. ENERGY STAR status was achieved earlier for Atlanta's Richard B. Russell Building and Federal Courthouse, home to DOE's Atlanta Regional Office. ❖

**United States
Department of Energy (PA-40)
Washington, DC 20585**

Official Business