DOE This Month

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

AUGUST 2004

President's Management Agenda awards ceremony at DOE Headquarters

Construction begins on new NREL science facility

Groundbreakings held at Paducah, Portsmouth

First GTRI shipment returns spent nuclear fuel to U.S.

DOE This Month

U.S. Department of Energy

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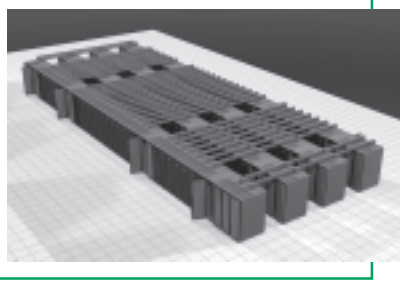
Inside



On our cover

To quote Kermit the Frog, "It's not easy to be green." But on the most recent Office of Management and Budget (OMB) quarterly scorecard that grades Federal agency performance in implementing the President's Management Agenda (PMA), the Department of Energy (DOE) was rated the highest performing Cabinet agency, showing that being "green" is most acceptable. DOE received three green (success) ratings in the areas of strategic management of human capital, competitive sourcing, and improved financial performance, and two yellow (mixed results) ratings in the e-government and budget/performance integration areas.

On Aug. 4 at DOE Headquarters, Washington, D.C., 60 Department employees were honored for their achievements in implementing the PMA initiatives. At the awards ceremony, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham (center) and Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow (right) accepted a symbolic Kermit the Frog from Kay Coles James, Director, Office of Personnel Management, on behalf of DOE and its employees for their efforts and hard work in putting the PMA initiatives into practice and achieving steady improvement on the OMB scorecard.

For more on the awards and the Department's PMA efforts, see page 3. ❖

DOE employees honored for implementing President's Management Agenda

At an awards ceremony at Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters on Aug. 4, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham honored 60 DOE workers, most of whom are career employees, for their outstanding achievements in implementing the President's Management Agenda (PMA). The recipients were recognized for their work on the five Government-wide PMA initiatives: strategic management of human capital, competitive sourcing, improved financial performance, expanded e-government, and budget and performance integration.

The awards were issued by Secretary Abraham. Joining the Secretary at the awards ceremony were Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow; Clay Johnson, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Kay Coles James, Director, Office of Personnel Management; and Linda Springer, Controller, OMB.

The Office of Management and Budget issues quarterly scorecards rating agency performance on the five PMA initiatives. On the scorecard released in July 2004, the Department received three green (success) ratings in the human capital, competitive sourcing, and financial performance areas and two yellow (mixed results) ratings in the areas of e-government and budget/performance integration. These ratings make DOE the highest performing Cabinet agency in implementing the President's Management Agenda.

"The Department of Energy's 116,000 employees and contractors have transformed the Department from an organization generally thought to be one of the Government's worst managed agencies to one of the very best. And we're continuing that mission," Secretary Abraham said. "These bold reforms demonstrate that the President is serious about transforming the Federal Government into a responsive, effective entity that can meet the service expectations of American taxpayers."

The Department's PMA achievements include:

- Restructure of the performance management system to link achievement with mission accomplishment;
- Four competitive sourcing studies that will result in $37 million in savings over five years;
- Clean audit opinions on DOE's financial statements for five straight years with no material weaknesses;
- The I-MANAGE integrated business management system and security certification of 92 percent of DOE's information systems; and
- A new strategic plan, 10 to 15-year program plans that bridge the gap between the strategic plan and annual budget requests, 250 performance measures, and quarterly progress assessments.

The award winners for the specific PMA initiatives and their offices are:

- **Strategic Management of Human Capital** – Howard Borgstrom, Claudia Cross (team leader), Alison Davidow, Ann Harrison, Walter Howes, Jerry Venanzi, and Cynthia Yee, Management, Budget and Evaluation (ME); Laura Lewis, Chief Information Officer (IM); Barbara Male, Environmental Management (EM); Mike Kane, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA); Chris Lukasik, Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (RW); John Sullivan, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE).
- **Competitive Sourcing** – Steven Apicella, John Bashista, James Campbell, Brian Costlow, Mark Hively, Dennis O'Brien (team leader), and Robin Topolski, ME; Paul Anderson, Savannah River Operations Office; Frank Beserra, Economic Impact and Diversity; Prentis Cook and Maryann Shebek, General Counsel; Dorsey Hibbits, NNSA.
- **Improved Financial Performance** – Lois Jessup, Richard Loyd, Robert Myers, John Newell, Dean Olson, Mary Rosicky, and Helen Sherman (team leader), ME; Dennis Hosaflook, William Levitan, and Matthew Zenkowich, EM; Kathleen Foley, NNSA; William Valdez, Science (SC).
- **Expanded E-Government** – Jimmy Amoako-Atta, Jeanne Beard, Almeda Cole, Theanne Gordon, Lawrence Gross, Rosalie Jordan, and Rosita Parkes (team leader), IM; Brian Furumasu, Bonneville Power Administration; Robert Ladesic, Fossil Energy; Eun Moredock, Western Area Power Administration; Margaret O'Brien, EM; Christopher Simpson, ME; Katherine Thomas, Southwestern Power Administration.
- **Budget/Performance Integration** – Karen Brown, Debbie Dayton, Kristin Draude, Connie Flohr, Janet Garber (team leader), Dick Rock, and Diane Wade, ME; Darryl Beschen, EE; Christine Chalk, SC; Ken Sheely and Ken Sprankle, NNSA.

Special awards for management of the PMA were presented to James Campbell, ME, and Ingrid Kolb, Office of the Deputy Secretary. ❖

Reports detail PMA results

Reforms instituted by the Department of Energy (DOE) through the President's Management Agenda are detailed in the DOE report, *Energizing America for a New Century—Results from Implementing the President's Management Agenda* (DOE/S-0043). Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham encourages all Department employees to review the report at **http://www.energy.gov/engine/doe/files/dynamic/97200492930_DOEEnergizing.pdf**.

The Office of Management and Budget has released a report to Federal employees highlighting results achieved Government-wide through the President's Management Agenda. *The Federal Government Is Results Oriented—A Report to Federal Employees* is available at **http://www.results.gov/agenda/report8-04/PMA_report.pdf**. ❖

NREL begins construction of new science facility

Ground was broken July 27, 2004, on a new Science and Technology Facility at the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colo. The building, the first major expansion at NREL in a decade, is being constructed adjacent to the existing Solar Energy Research Facility.

At the ceremony, national and local leaders praised the project as a model for future laboratories and a new resource for ensuring U.S. energy security. "This new facility will extend DOE's and NREL's research capabilities and hasten the day when we reach our goal of providing the kind of clean, affordable energy solutions that can be used by all Americans," Acting Under Secretary of Energy and Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Garman said.

"We have had a long-standing need for more state-of-the-art laboratory space here at NREL and that's what this innovative facility will provide us," NREL Director Richard Truly said. "Our emphasis with this facility is squarely on shortening the time it takes to get beneficial technologies into the marketplace."

Local middle school students also participated in the groundbreaking.

At the groundbreaking are (l-r) James Spigarelli, Chairman and CEO, Midwest Research Institute; Acting Under Secretary of Energy David Garman; Rep. Bob Beauprez, R-Colo.; Senator Wayne Allard, R-Colo.; Richard Truly, Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory; and John Kersten, Manager, DOE Golden Field Office.

The students were past winners of DOE-sponsored science competitions and participants in NREL education programs.

Research in the Science and Technology Facility will focus mainly on photovoltaics. However, the facility also will enable the expansion of research capabilities in hydrogen, solid-state lighting, thin-film coatings and devices, superconductivity, electrochromic windows, and nanotechnologies.

Functionality and flexibility for researchers are top priorities in the building's design. Researchers from different disciplines will be able to interact and share data while working, and individual laboratories can be combined to form large, open spaces for collaborative research. Advanced energy efficiency and "green building" concepts also are part of the design. Construction of the new building is scheduled for completion in 2006. ❖

DOE breaks ground for DUF_6 facilities

Two Records of Decision (RODs) were issued by the Department of Energy (DOE) on July 20, 2004, for construction and operation of depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF_6) conversion facilities at DOE's Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky and Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. The new facilities will convert DUF_6, the material remaining from previous uranium enrichment operations, into a more stable chemical form for reuse or disposal.

The following week, Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow joined members of the Kentucky and Ohio congressional delegations for groundbreaking ceremonies on July 27 at the Paducah plant and on July 28 at the Portsmouth plant. Participating in the Kentucky event were United States Senators Jim Bunning and Mitch McConnell and U.S. Representative Ed Whitfield; in the Ohio groundbreaking, United States Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich and U.S. Representatives David Hobson and Rob Portman.

The new facilities will convert DUF_6 to uranium oxide, the most stable form of uranium, and will permit recycling of aqueous hydrogen fluoride produced as a conversion co-product. DUF_6 is stored on-site at the Paducah and Portsmouth plants and in Oak Ridge, Tenn. The Oak Ridge DUF_6 inventory currently is being moved to Portsmouth for conversion.

Uranium Disposition Services LLC will construct and operate the facilities for the first five years. The Portsmouth facility is expected to operate for about 18 years, and the Paducah facility, for about 25 years.

The RODs were issued based on two Final Environmental Impact Statements published in the *Federal Register* on June 18, 2004. Copies of the RODs are available on the DUF_6 Management Information Network website, **http://web.ead.anl.gov/uranium/**, and DOE NEPA website, **http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/documents.html**. ❖

Secretary directs DOE-wide stand-down of classified operations using CREM

On July 23, 2004, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham ordered all Department of Energy (DOE) operations using controlled removable electronic media (CREM), such as classified computer hard drives or disks, to conduct an immediate stand-down to improve procedures for protecting such media. Secretary Abraham's directive was an outgrowth of a problem discovered on July 7, 2004, when an inventory at the Department's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico revealed that two zip diskettes containing classified material could not be located.

"The situation at LANL suggests that we must minimize the risk of human error or malfeasance to a much greater extent. Thus, while we have no evidence that the problems currently being investigated are present elsewhere, we have a responsibility to take all necessary action to prevent such problems from occurring at all," Secretary Abraham said. "Therefore, I have directed that we stand-down all operations involving so-called controlled removable electronic media until such time as a site or facility conducts appropriate training, reviews security procedures, ensures complete and accountable custodial responsibility, and arranges for a complete inventory."

Secretary Abraham approved the stand-down plan based on recommendations provided by Deputy Secretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow and Administrator Linton Brooks of DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), who were directed by Secretary Abraham to personally take charge of the LANL investigation. Key aspects of the DOE-wide stand-down include:

- A 100 percent initial physical inventory of accountable CREM at sites and weekly inventories thereafter;
- After site operational restart is approved, the formal entering of all CREM containing Secret Restricted Data or above into accountability;
- Maintaining all accountable CREM in approved repositories under the direct control of authorized and trained custodians;
- Initiating a formal checkout process for all accountable CREM, with access to approved repositories strictly limited to authorized custodians;
- Verification by an independent validation team that protocols are in effect prior to restart of operations; and
- The allowance of exceptions only under extraordinary circumstances, with all exceptions to be approved personally by the Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Detailed operations restart protocols were provided to sites in a memorandum from Deputy Secretary McSlarrow. Once all the measures have been taken, the sites are to submit a formal request for operational standup/restart to the Office of Security and Safety Performance Assurance or the Administrator, NNSA. The Deputy Secretary approves all operational restarts.

In May 2004, Secretary Abraham announced a series of sweeping security measures throughout the DOE weapons complex, including a proposal to move to diskless workstations for classified computing over the next five years. Secretary Abraham has directed Deputy Secretary McSlarrow to investigate accelerating this initiative. ❖

Award trip brings students closer to nature

How many high school students wish that they could get a "birds-eye" view of a red-cockaded woodpecker and spend a day as an ecologist at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS)? DOE National Science Bowl® finalists from A&M Consolidated High School, College Station, Texas, had a chance to fulfill that wish during a recent visit to the Site by the four-member team and coach as a reward for placing second in the competition.

The award trip included a chance to participate in tours and activities designed to interest the students in careers in science, mathematics, and technology. Their three-day stay at SRS, followed by a three-day tour of the Charleston, S.C., area and wetlands, was billed as "Wet, Wild, and Wonderful" because most of the activities focus on the area's ecology. Activities included a boat trip on the Savannah River, a night trip on boats looking for alligators, an investigation of an archaeological site, tours of the Defense Waste Processing Facility and Savannah River National Laboratory's (SRNL) Remote Systems Laboratory, and other activities.

Teacher and team coach Kristen Jones was ecstatic about returning to SRS for the second year in a row. "Our trip to SRS was fantastic," Jones said. "The students found hundreds of real-world applications of the knowledge that they had gained in the classroom and in Science Bowl preparation. This trip helped me to understand the extremely broad role that the DOE takes in our nation's scientific research community."

When asked how he felt about the trip, student Nathan Savir said, "If I had to pick a word, to describe the trip, it would be 'incredible!' We couldn't think of any way to improve the trip. It was totally awesome!"

In addition to DOE, hosts for the trip included Westinghouse Savannah River Company and its partners, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service-Savannah River, SRNL, Wackenhut Services Inc., and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. ❖

Methane to Markets Partnership launched

On July 27, 2004, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham joined Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Mike Leavitt at EPA Headquarters, Washington, D.C., to announce the Administration's Methane to Markets Partnership. The United States will join efforts with Australia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom to develop and promote cooperation on the recovery and use of methane, a clean-burning fuel that is the main component of natural gas and the second most prevalent greenhouse gas from human sources.

The U.S. will commit up to $53 million to the Partnership over the next five years. EPA will lead the Partnership and work closely with the Departments of Energy (DOE) and State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Partnership will focus on deploying cost-effective technologies in landfill gas-to-energy projects, methane recovery projects at coal mines, and improvements in natural gas systems.

"The Department of Energy has been a leader in technology-based multilateral initiatives, such as the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum….The Department and our national labs have engaged in a wide range of methane recovery activities, many in partnership with EPA and USAID," Secretary Abraham said. "I look forward to bringing DOE's expertise to bear, in partnership with EPA, USAID, and the founding partners…as we harness a valuable energy resource while reducing emissions of this potent greenhouse gas."

Secretary Abraham addresses news media at the methane partnership rollout. Joining him on stage are (l-r) Hiroaki Ishi, Minister of Japan; Dr. Kamal Kant Dwivedi, Counselor of India (Science and Technology); Mike Leavitt, EPA Administrator; and Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs.

The Partnership has the potential to reduce net methane emissions by up to 50 million metric tons of carbon equivalent annually by 2015 and continue at that level or higher in the future. This would be the carbon equivalent of removing 33 million cars from roadways for one year or eliminating emissions from fifty 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants. In terms of energy security, capturing methane holds the promise of providing enough energy to heat approximately 7.2 million households for one year.

Specific details of the Partnership will be established and formalized through further discussion with participating member countries. A Ministerial Conference is planned in November 2004 in Washington, D.C. Additional information is available at **http://www.epa.gov/methane/international.html**. ❖

DOE issues advance notice of proposed rules

The Department of Energy has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) for energy efficiency standards for each of three products: distribution transformers, commercial air conditioners and heat pumps, and residential furnaces and boilers. Each product will be the subject of an upcoming public meeting at which DOE will seek public comment.

The ANOPR is the first stage of the overall standards rulemaking process. This will be followed by a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a final rule.

Public meetings are scheduled Sept. 28, 2004, for distribution transformers; Sept. 29, 2004, for residential furnaces and boilers; and Sept. 30, 2004, for commercial air conditioners and heat pumps. The purpose of the public meetings is to present DOE's analysis methods and to characterize the results to date; to discuss specific issues related to each rulemaking; to seek input from attendees on methodologies, assumptions, and data sources; and to describe upcoming analyses and next steps.

Additional information on the public meetings and the ANOPR are available at the following websites:

- Distribution transformers – **http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/distribution_transformers.html**;
- Commercial air conditioners and heat pumps – **http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/ac_hp.html**;
- Residential furnaces and boilers – **http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/furnaces_boilers.html**. ❖

Sandia supercomputer to be world's fastest

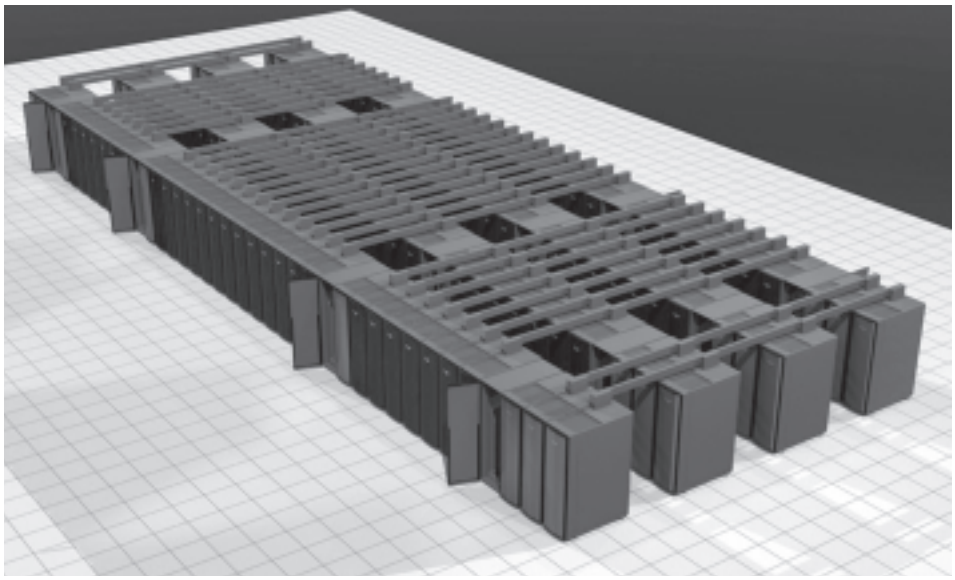
The first quarter of a $90 million, 41.5 teraflops (trillion operations/second) supercomputer should be installed at the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories by the end of September 2004 and fully up and running by January 2005, says Bill Camp, Sandia's Director of Computation, Computers, Information and Mathematics. The supercomputer, named Red Storm, is being developed by Sandia and Cray Inc.

Red Storm, an air-cooled supercomputer, will be faster, yet smaller and less expensive, than previous supercomputers, Sandia researchers say. Japan's Earth Simulator, currently the world's fastest supercomputer, takes up approximately three times the space and has a peak eight megawatts of power compared to Red Storm's projected two megawatts.

Performance testing will begin in early 2005. By the end of 2005, the machine should be capable of 100 teraflops, after each single-processor chip is replaced with a new chip that maintains two independent processors, each running 25 percent faster than the original chip.

The main purpose of the machine is work for the United States nuclear stockpile, including designing new components; virtually testing components under hostile, abnormal, and normal conditions; and helping in weapons engineering and weapons physics. Red Storm is expected to run 10 times as fast as Sandia's ASCI Red computer system on Sandia's important application codes. ASCI Red held first pace on the top 500 list of the world's supercomputers for three-and-one-half consecutive years.

The supercomputer, seen in the artist's depiction, is scalable from a single computer cabinet to approximately 300 cabinets. Each cabinet has 96 processors, with four processors to a board. Each processor can have up to eight gigabytes of memory sitting next to it. Four Cray SeaStars—powerful networking chips—sit on a daughter board atop each processor board. All SeaStars talk to each other "like a Rubik cube with lots of squares on each face," Camp says. The amount of time to get the first information bit from one processor to another is less than 5 microseconds across the system. In addition, the system was designed with a unique capability to monitor and manage itself. ❖



First GTRI shipment returns nuclear fuel to U.S.

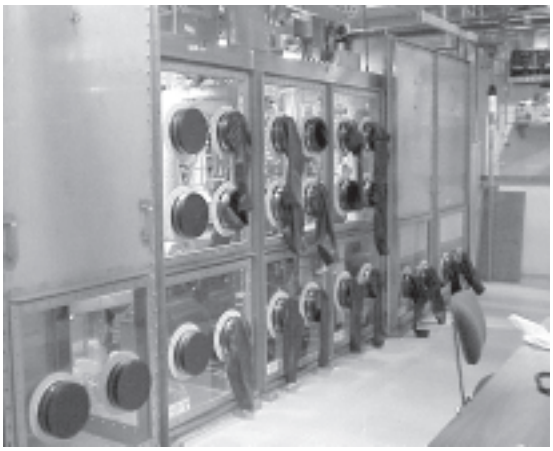
The first shipment of returned spent nuclear fuel under the Department of Energy's (DOE) new Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) was completed Aug. 5. The shipment from three research reactors in Germany contained 126 spent nuclear fuel assemblies of U.S. origin composed of highly enriched and low-enriched uranium. The assemblies are being stored at DOE's interim management site—the Savannah River Site in South Carolina—until final disposition arrangements are made.

"By accepting this material, particularly highly enriched uranium that could be used in nuclear weapons if it falls into the hands of terrorist groups, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative plays a key role in removing this material from international civilian commerce," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "This program is vital to our nonproliferation efforts worldwide and I welcome the support of these efforts by Germany, a close partner of the U.S. in the effort to address the threat of proliferation."

The shipment took place in the framework of the existing Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Acceptance Program. This program, which supports the return of U.S.-origin spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors to the United States, was integrated as a key element into the new GTRI. One of the key missions of the GTRI program is to convert reactors worldwide to low-enriched uranium nuclear fuel.

In the 1950's under the Atoms for Peace program, the U.S. provided reactor fuel to further other countries' research into peaceful uses of atomic energy, with the provision that the resulting spent fuel would be returned to the U.S. Recovering the fuel is now a major nonproliferation effort of DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration, which administers the GTRI. ❖

Last tritium system being dismantled at Miamisburg



CH2M HILL Mound, Inc., the Department of Energy's (DOE) cleanup contractor at the Miamisburg Closure Project (MCP) in Ohio, has begun removing the site's last remaining tritium handling facility, at left. Removal of the Tritium Emission Reduction Facility (TERF) marks another significant milestone in the cleanup of the site.

Since early summer, the TERF system has been decontaminating itself by capturing the tritium gas left in the system and converting it to water, which through a separate process is then turned into concrete for safe removal and shipping. After the TERF system is removed, the building housing the system will be decontaminated and dismantled.

"The Department of Energy has been pleased with the progress made by CH2M HILL, the site contractor," MCP Project Director Margaret Marks said. "The working relationship among the regulators, contractors, the City of Miamisburg, and other stakeholders has been the foundation for the success of the TERF project as well as the overall success of the Miamisburg cleanup." ❖

LLNL cyber security response group receives recognition

The Computer Incident Advisory Capability (CIAC) at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory received a certificate of appreciation and recognition from DOE's Chief Information Officer Rosita Parkes at the 2004 DOE Computer Security Training Conference. With the plaque are team members (standing, l-r) Sue Grimsley, Paul Krystosek, Wolf Schaefer, Kathy Hansen, Doug Lim, Addam Schroll, Bill Orvis, Tim Meier, leader Denise Sumikawa, Andrew Brown, Donna Couture, Steven Suppe, Tony Bartoletti, John Dias, Stephen Wong, Marvin Christensen, (kneeling, l-r) Julie Driscoll, and Kathryn Knerler. Not pictured is Vickie Carroll.

Established by DOE in 1989, the CIAC's primary mission is to respond to and assist and protect the Department's computer community from increasing computer security attacks via viruses, hacking, and Internet hoaxes. Internationally recognized, CIAC's client list has grown to include other Federal agencies. ❖

D&D progresses at Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant

The demolition in June 2004 of the 234-ZB facility (left), a small quonset hut used for storage, represents just a fraction of the progress Fluor Hanford is making in deactivating and decommissioning (D&D) facilities that are part of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) complex at the Department of Energy's Hanford Site. Seven buildings at the complex are scheduled to be torn down this fiscal year.

At the same time, the PFP complex has transitioned from its successful plutonium stabilization and packaging mission, which concluded in February 2004, to full throttle D&D. PFP workers have removed more than 30 percent of the plutonium "held up" in aged equipment and over 20 percent of the contaminated equipment. At two main buildings in the PFP complex, the 234-5Z and 236-Z facilities, workers also have completed more than 50 percent of a chemical mitigation project that will be finished in September 2004. ❖

INEEL hosts national laboratories IT summit

Information technology (IT) professionals should look ahead, listen to each other's point of view, and collaborate to make things happen. That was a key message presented at the 2004 National Laboratories Information Technologies Summit, held June 20-23, 2004, in Jackson, Wyo. The summit was hosted by the Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The meeting attracted 330 IT professionals from 23 DOE laboratories and sites.

Keynote speaker Darwin John, a former chief information officer (CIO) and current adviser to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, stressed that IT managers and professionals must be willing to collaborate to find and carry out solutions to problems. INEEL Director Paul Kearns (right) pointed out that collaboration benefits everyone in the DOE laboratory system by improving design and execution, reducing duplication, disseminating research results, creating opportunities for partnerships, and advancing scientific inquiry. Conference presentations are available at **http://www.inel.gov/conferences/nlit/**. ❖

Power plant builders could help finance new line

The Department of Energy's Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is trying a new approach to obtain financing for construction of a new 500-kilovolt transmission line. BPA held an "open season" in July 2004 for power plant sponsors in the Pacific Northwest to sign up for transmission service. The sponsors would help finance a new $140 million line between the large McNary and John Day generating dams on the Columbia River (see map at right).

The project will add about 1,250 megawatts of transfer capacity along the Columbia River from the Tri-Cites area in Washington to the Rufus-John Day area in Oregon. The approximately 80-mile-long line would help integrate new gas and wind energy generated in the area.

Brian Silverstein, BPA Manager of Network Planning, says the line is needed to serve demand from any additional generation developed in the area, rather than to ensure power grid reliability. The project was placed on hold in late 2002 due to lack of funding. ❖

Nevada counties benefit from DOE assistance

The Grant Assistance Program at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Nevada Site Office was initiated to aid six Nevada counties impacted by the rerouting of low-level waste out of the Las Vegas Valley. In its fourth year, the program will distribute an estimated $2.3 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 to the counties of Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine. Approximately $320,000, the remainder of funds allocated for FY 2003, and $905,000, the initial FY 2004 allotment, were distributed in April 2004. To date, the total amount granted to the counties approaches $7 million.

The annual funding, administered by the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, is based on a waste generator fee of $0.50 per cubic foot of waste disposed at DOE's Nevada Test Site. The emergency preparedness funds are used by the counties in such areas as enhanced communication tools, salaries and training, personal protective equipment, ambulances, fire trucks, squad cars, rescue equipment, and computers. At right, West Wendover female firefighters receive training on tank operations. ❖

DOE plays role in Cassini mission success

The arrival of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Cassini-Huygena spacecraft at the planet Saturn on July 1, 2004, following a seven-year journey was made possible partly by work done at Department of Energy (DOE) sites. Cassini has traveled more than two billion miles since it was launched Oct. 15, 1997, and is now in the last phase of its mission—a four-year-long orbit as a satellite of Saturn.

An artist's depiction of Cassini approaching the planet Saturn.

Cassini is powered by plutonium-238 produced by DOE's Savannah River Site (SRS). The Pu-238 is contained in three radioisotopic thermoelectric generators (RTGs) that convert heat from the plutonium fuel into electricity. The RTGs will reliably supply the 700 watts of electrical power to the many scientific instruments, control systems, and communication devices required to complete the Cassini mission.

RTGs now have been carried on 24 U.S. missions. They are used for deep space missions when solar power isn't feasible.

DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) developed and fabricated the protective cladding, iridium alloy clad vent sets, to encapsulate the fuel. The clad vent sets are resistant to heat and impact and are designed and tested to remain intact even during an unplanned reentry during the spacecraft's launch or subsequent gravitational-assist planetary flybys—a safety feature required by the Cassini project.

NASA remains an ORNL customer. The iridium alloy clad vent sets have been used in other deep-space missions—Voyager, Galileo, and Ulysses—and will be present on future NASA missions.

Plutonium from the Savannah River Site also is playing a part in the success of the U.S. rovers Spirit and Opportunity on the surface of Mars. The rovers are powered by solar energy, but each also carries eight radioisotope heater units to ensure essential electronics are kept warm. Savannah River also has played a role in the Galileo missions to Jupiter and Saturn and the Ulysses mission studying the sun's polar regions.

Hundreds of SRS employees have a stake in Cassini's success. Besides working to produce the Pu-238, many of the employees and their families sent a little piece of themselves along on the mission—a DVD with more than 600,000 signatures. ❖

U.S., Romania sign GTRI implementing agreement

On July 19, 2004, U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Romanian Minister Delegate of the Commission for Nuclear Energy Serban C. Valeca signed an implementing agreement to accelerate the groundwork for future work on nuclear nonproliferation activities. The signing took place at the Romanian Consulate in New York, N.Y. The agreement covers work between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Agency of Romania and the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control of Romania.

"This agreement provides yet another excellent opportunity for the United States and Romania to work together to reduce the threat of terrorism through the removal of proliferation-attractive material under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI)," Secretary Abraham said. The goal of the GTRI, announced by Secretary Abraham on May 26, 2004, in Vienna, Austria, is to identify, secure, remove, or facilitate the disposal of vulnerable nuclear and radioactive materials and equipment around the world that pose a threat to the international community as quickly and expeditiously as possible.

Under the agreement, the U.S. will begin work under GTRI's Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return program to repatriate to Russia irradiated Soviet and Russian-origin fuel containing highly enriched uranium from the Magurele research reactor in Romania. In 2002, the Romanian government decided to permanently shut down the reactor and prepare it for decommissioning. DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration will assist with the removal of the irradiated nuclear fuel. ❖

Carbon sequestration program adds partners

Seven new states and 13 organizations have joined the Department of Energy's (DOE) Carbon Sequestration Regional Partnership Program. The program is a nationwide network of Federal, state, and private sector partnerships that have the goal of determining the most suitable technologies, regulations, and infrastructure for future carbon capture, storage, and sequestration in different areas of the country.

The seven original partnerships were selected in August 2003 to evaluate and promote the carbon sequestration and infrastructure best suited to their unique regions. Three of the partnerships added new partners. With the addition of the new states and organizations, the partnerships now include leaders from 154 organizations spanning 40 states, three Indian nations, and two Canadian provinces.

The States of Texas and Virginia and two organizations have joined the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership. The focus of the Southeast partnership in Texas will be carbon capture and sequestration opportunities in the Gulf Coast area. Nine other states and numerous academic, coal, power utility, and other organizations are partners with or serve as advisors to the Southeast partnership, which is headed by Southern States Energy Board.

The Plains CO_2 Reduction Partnership has expanded with the addition of the States of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin and two organizations. The new partners join five states and several organizations from industry and academia. The Plains partnership is led by the Energy and Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota.

The States of Michigan and Maryland have joined five other states to expand the Midwest Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership. Nine organizations also are new members. The Midwest partnership is led by Battelle Memorial Institute.

The other four partnerships are the West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, led by the California Energy Commission; Southwest Regional Partnership for Carbon Sequestration, led by the Western Governors Association and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; Northern Rockies and Great Plains Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, led by Montana State University; and the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium, headed by the University of Illinois – Illinois State Geological Survey.

DOE is providing approximately $13 million to support the partnerships during the first phase of the project. Three participating organizations are contributing another $7.2 million. The partnerships are managed by DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory. At the end of two years, technologies will be recommended for small-scale validation testing in a Phase II competition expected to begin in late Fiscal Year 2005. ❖

Middle school science students compete

A team of four middle school students from Ronald McNair Magnet School in Cocoa, Fla., topped 19 other competing teams to take top honors in the academic competition of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Middle School Science Bowl. The tournament, held June 17-20, 2004, at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo., was hosted by the Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The annual event was sponsored by DOE's Office of Science and General Motors.

"We are so pleased to be responsible for the National Middle School Science Bowl, serving to encourage young people in the formative years of their sixth through eighth grades to enhance their science and mathematics skills—and, we hope, to become our future leaders in these critical areas," Dr. Raymond Orbach, Director of DOE's Office of Science, said.

During a daylong round robin and double elimination tournament on June 19, the McNair team of Kyla Davis Horn, Megan Rein, Antony Stabile, and Stephen Sisley successfully answered tough questions about life sciences, physical science, earth sciences, and mathematics that could stump most of the U.S. adult population. The team from Lux Middle School, Lincoln, Neb., earned second place, and Los Alamos Middle School from New Mexico came in third. Cincinnati Alliance of Ohio received the civility award for showing the most positive spirit.

Separate hydrogen fuel cell model car competitions were held June 18. Each team was given a fuel cell and plastic fuel tank to construct a model hydrogen fuel cell car. The model car competitions challenge the students' engineering and design skills.

Doolen Middle School, Tucson, Ariz., captured first place in the stock competition—cars made directly from a fuel cell kit, with limited modifications. Roosevelt Middle School, River Forest, Ill., took second place, and Brandon Middle School, Virginia Beach, Va., came in third.

Jenkins Middle School, Colorado Springs, Colo., won top honors in the open class competition—cars with a standard fuel cell and solar cell, with other design elements left up to the team's imagination. Lux Middle School came in second and R.D. & Euzelle P. Smith Middle School, Chapel Hill, N.C., took third place.

First, second, and third place teams in the academic competition, respectively, received a $150, $125, and $100 gift certificate from Discovery.com. The winners in the model hydrogen fuel cell car competitions, respectively, received a $100, $75, and $50 gift certificate from Discovery.com. ❖

DOE releases final RFPs for Idaho and Hanford cleanup projects

On July 21, 2004, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a Final Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Idaho Cleanup Project that will expedite safe cleanup of DOE's Idaho site, while fully protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer and meeting all environmental and regulatory requirements. "Our cleanup plan marks a significant and aggressive new approach for the safe and effective cleanup at the Idaho facilities," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said.

The Department will award a cost-plus-incentive-fee contract to the offeror that represents the best value to the government and demonstrates that it can meet the cleanup goals for the Idaho site. DOE anticipates award of the contract March 15, 2005, with a contract takeover date of May 1, 2005.

Contact requirements include treatment and disposal of radioactive waste; retrieval, disposal and other remediation related to buried waste; safe management of spent nuclear fuel; and disposition of nuclear materials, disposition of reactor and non-reactor nuclear facilities, and environmental remediation activities currently funded through DOE's Office of Environmental Management. The contract is intended to meet the 2012 vision developed by the site and represents an acceleration of work over the original cleanup that extended until 2070.

The RFP, No. DE-RP07-03ID14516, is available at the solicitation web site, **http://www.id.doe.gov**. Electronic media will be used exclusively for postings related to this solicitation.

A final RFP was released by the Department on July 22, 2004, for cleanup and closure of the 210-square-mile Columbia River Corridor at DOE's Hanford Site in Washington. The work spans the 100 Area, where nine plutonium production reactors made material for nuclear weapons; the 300 Area, where uranium fuel was fabricated and laboratory facilities reside; 400 Area facilities, except the Fast Flux Test Facility; and a phased cleanup of the complex and highly contaminated 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds.

"This contract work will ensure we meet the environmental and regulatory commitments while safely cleaning up the Hanford Site," Secretary Abraham said. "We are committed to progress and we expect the new contractor to meet our goals and targets for cleanup."

After consideration of industry comments to a draft solicitation published in December 2003 and following industry information exchanges, the final RFP was issued with substantive revisions. These include strengthening enforceable contractual requirements for small business participation, revising the expectation for how the contractor will provide a fair and equitable benefits program, moving from 2007 to 2009 the schedule for the start of demolition of major facilities in the 300 Area still in use by DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, requiring a separate DOE decision and authorization for the contractor to proceed with that work, and extending the proposal preparation period from 45 days to 60 days.

The solicitation, No. DE-RP06-04RL14655, is posted in the Richland Operations Office section of the DOE E-Center Industry Interactive Procurement System at **http://www.pr.doe.gov**. ❖

On June 17, 2004, the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) held its second annual Community Leader Day. More than 150 community members representing local government, businesses, and civic organizations came to LLNL to meet with senior managers, hear briefings on the laboratory's mission and activities, and tour research facilities. The tours included the Advanced Simulation and Computing Program, Homeland Security, the Forensic Science Center, the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center, the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, and the Biology and Biotechnology Research Programs. In the photograph, Forensic Science Center Director Glenn Fox explains the workings of a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer to community leaders. ❖

Research DIGEST

A team of scientists with the Department of Energy's **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory** (LBNL) and the University of California at Berkeley have achieved a significant breakthrough in the development of the semiconductor gallium nitride as a building block for nanotechnology. For the first time ever, the researchers have been able to control the direction in which a gallium nitride nanowire grows. Growth direction is critical to determining the wire's electrical and thermal conductivity and other important properties. "Our results will come as a surprise to those who have said that growth direction can't be controlled, that you get what you get when you grow semiconductor nanowires," says LBNL chemist and research leader Peidon Yang. A report discussing the research results appears in the August 2004 issue of the journal *Nature Materials*. (Lynn Yarris, 510-486-5375)

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By squeezing zirconium with roughly the same pressure needed to make diamonds, scientists at the Department of Energy's **Los Alamos National Laboratory** (LANL) have made a pure glass that may prove nearly as valuable. Yusheng Zhao and Jianzhong Zhang of LANL's Lujan Neutron Scattering Center have found that pure zirconium metal forms glass at temperatures roughly one-third of zirconium's melting temperature and static pressures around five billion pascals, or more than 50,000 times atmospheric pressure. "This is the first time that bulk metallic glass has been formed from a single element or pure metal," Zhao said. "By using industrial pressure processes to make pure samples without the defects that appear in metallic glasses made the conventional way, we've identified a method with potentially important commercial applications." The research findings were published in the July 15, 2004, issue of *Nature*. (Jim Danneskiold, 505-667-1640)

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Health physicists at the Department of Energy's **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** (ORNL) are helping University of Tennessee researchers determine the age of anthropological finds. A Dosimetry Applications Research Calibration Laboratory team is using radiation testing equipment to date finds such as a bovid (horse or cow) tooth found near an ancient human tooth on the island of Java, Indonesia. By testing the bovid tooth, researchers can determine the age of the rare human tooth while still preserving it. The ORNL team dates sample components such as quartz, feldspar, or tooth enamel by doing radiation damage dating. Scientists first determine the dose of the sample by measuring electrons that have been promoted by natural radiation in the surrounding soil into "traps" in the tooth. Next, the dose rate of the contextual material is determined using a gamma spectrometer. By dividing the dose by the dose rate, researchers can determine the relative age of the fossil. (Bill Cabage, 865-574-4399)

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Scientists and engineers at the Department of Energy's **Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory** (INEEL) recently demonstrated an Explosive Detection System (EDS). Three years in development, the EDS is a nonintrusive, noncontact inspection technique that can identify explosives hidden in a small cargo truck or similar vehicle. Through a technique called pulsed thermal neutron analysis, the system uses high-energy neutron output to cause nuclear excitation of materials within the vehicle. The system uses the technology in a portal-type configuration. A vehicle would be required to stop within the system's inspection zone and the inspection would begin after the driver exits the vehicle. The INEEL patent-pending system uses detectors to identify elements within the targeted cargo that indicate the presence of explosives. The whole process takes about five minutes and leaves no lasting radiation effects on the inspected vehicle, cargo, or facility in which the system is installed. The INEEL system is quick, inexpensive, and reliable. Computer graphics are easy to understand, eliminating the potential for ambiguous interpretation. (John Walsh, 208-526-8646)

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A research group led by a scientist at the Department of Energy's **Brookhaven National Laboratory** (BNL) has discovered a simple relationship that mathematically links the properties of a class of high-temperature superconductors. This new, unexpected law may provide clues to understanding the mechanism of high-temperature superconductivity. BNL physicist Christopher Homes focused on several members of a class of high-temperature superconductors known as cuprates, which are characterized by layers of copper oxide. He found a relationship between three of each cuprate's physical properties: direct current (dc) conductivity, critical temperature, and the "superfluid density" in the superconducting state. The new law, called a scaling relation, states that the superfluid density is proportional to the dc conductivity multiplied by the critical temperature. The research is discussed in the July 29, 2004, issue of *Nature*. (Karen McNulty Walsh, 631-344-8350) ❖

People IN ENERGY

Helene Benveniste has been named Chair of the Medical Department at the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), a position she has held in an interim capacity since October 2003. Since May 2003, Benveniste also has served as Interim Associate Laboratory Director for Life Sciences, a position she still holds. She joined BNL's Medical Department in 2001 as a scientist. Benveniste also is a practicing anesthesiologist at University Hospital at Stony Brook and a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at Stony Brook University.

President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate **Karen Alderman Harbert** to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs. Harbert currently serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean at the United States Agency for International Development. President Bush also has announced his intention to designate **John S. Shaw** to be Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health and to nominate Shaw to the position. Shaw currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Planning at the Department of Energy.

Nestor J. Zaluzec of the Electron Microscopy Center in the Materials Science Division at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory is the recipient of the August Köhler Award for 2004. The award, presented by the State Microscopical Society of Illinois, recognizes the important developments in imaging and image formation for microscopic investigations. Zaluzec is being recognized for his contributions to electron microscopy and for the development of the scanning confocal electron microscope, for which he received an R&D 100 Award in 2003.

James Glotfelty, Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution (OETD), resigned effective August 2 to return with his family to his home state of Texas. Prior to serving as OETD Director, Glotfelty served as Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham's senior electricity policy advisor. **William Parks**, current OETD Deputy Director, has been named Acting Director of the office.

Physicists **Vladimir Litvinenko** (top) and **Jie Wei** of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Laboratory have been elected Fellows of the American Physical Society. Litvinenko, deputy group leader of the electron-cooling project for the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), was recognized for his "fundamental and pioneering contributions to the physics of beams in electron storage rings and free electron lasers." Wei, currently the senior team leader responsible for the design and construction of the accumulator ring and transport lines for the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) being built at DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was recognized for his "outstanding and creative contributions to the design and development of RHIC and SNS."

Alice Doswell, **Angelia Adams**, **Brian Hennessey**, and **Wade Whitaker** of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office, and personnel from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, recently received the EPA 2004 National Notable Achievement Award for developing an innovative approach to achieve accelerated cleanup at the Savannah River Site. The winners were selected from about 40 award applications from all EPA regions for outstanding team achievement at a Federal facility.

Alan Waltar, Director of Nuclear Energy at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is the recipient of the American Nuclear Society's (ANS) 2004 Public Communication Award. Waltar, recognized for his exceptional achievements in furthering public understanding of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, was presented the award at the ANS annual meeting held June 15 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Four employees from the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) have received the 2004 Outstanding Service Award from the University of Chicago Board of Governors, the highest honor the university presents to Argonne employees in support positions. The award, established in 1983, recognizes those who have furthered the goals and missions of the laboratory through exceptional contributions. The award winners are **John Greene**, Physics Division; **Vivian Kay Johnson**, Plant Facilities and Services Division; **Marsha Mehaffey**, Nuclear Engineering Division; and **Willis Ray**, Plant Facilities and Services Division.❖

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE
August 2004
Headquarters

Chief Information Officer – Xavier J. Davis (25 years). **Economic Impact & Diversity** – William A. Lewis, Jr. (30). **EIA** – Claudette Graham (35), Lynn A. Greenfield (35), Elizabeth E. Campbell (30), Hafeezur Rahman (30), Mark E. Rodekohr (30), Hilary R. Salkov (30), Ramesh A. Dandekar (25).

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy – Simon Friedrich (45), Janet V. Compton (30), Paul E. Johnson (30), Richard F. Moorer (30), Julie A. Riel (25). **Environmental Management** – Vicki L. Crampton (40), Steven A. Frank (35), Nancy M. Shahadi (35), Diane P. Cochran (25), George P. Dixon (25), Deborah L. Evans (25), Michael E. Wangler (25).

FERC – Curtis L. Wagner, Jr. (50), James T. Mellom (45), Clara R. Brooks (35), Pamela S. Crawford (30), James K. Guest (30), Darla E. Hannan (30), Madeline H. Lewis (30), David E. Mead (30), Karen K. Nygaard (30), Hollis J. Alpert (25), Michael J. Boyle (25), Carmen A. Cintron (25), Lawrence R. Greenfield (25), Beatrice W. Jones (25), Kathleen E. Nieman (25), Ingrid M. Olson (25), Elizabeth A. Taylor (25).

Fossil Energy – Clarence L. Miller (35). **Inspector General** – Easter J. Gorham (35). **Management, Budget & Evaluation** – Thomas E. Brown (35), John N. Harrison (35), Sarah J. Bonilla (30), Donnie L. Marsh (30), Jacqueline A. Brown (25), Barbara C. Harbell (25), M. Jeanne Williams (25). **NNSA** – Joan M. Burkins (35), Kenneth A. Chacey (30), Charles E. Pearson (30), Espeditto Ruggiero (30), Roseann M. Trujillo (30), Joe P. Hutcherson (25).

Nuclear Energy – H. Mark Roth (30), Michael N. Worley (25). **Policy & International** – Carmen Difiglio (30). **Science** – Karen S. Summers (25). **Security & Safety Performance Assurance** – Richard J. Lyons (30), Martha S. Thompson (30), Sharon P. Weaver (30).

Field
Bonneville Power – Jack J. Bailey (35), Dwight P. Berger (35), Michael F. Brock (35), Janice K. O'Rourke (35), Richard W. Organ (35), Ronald C. Richards (35), Phyllis M. Fleischmann (30), Susan C. Gayfield (30), Carl J. Keller (30), Colleen K. Olson (30), Jerry A. Bialek (25), Susan P. Custard (25), Sharon L. Doggett (25), Wayne J. Hein (25), William E. Murlin (25), Edward O. Scott, Jr. (25), Vicki L. Smith (25).

Chicago – Lucy Borjas (30), Barbara A. Turner (25), H. Allen Wrigley, Jr. (25). **Idaho** – Brian P. Conlon (30), George J. Schneider (30). **Kansas City Site/NNSA** – Steve C. Taylor (40). **NETL** – Robert A. Patton (30). **Nevada** – Cynthia G. Lockwood (25). **Nevada Site/NNSA** – Geraldine V. Babero (25). **Oak Ridge** – Nancy J. Fitchpatrick (30), Jennifer J. Fowler (30), Steven K. Oldham (30), Wayne H. Albaugh (25), Marilyn D. Galyon (25).

Ohio – John S. Brown (30), Lisa G. Kosko (25). **Pacific Northwest Site** – Paul W. Kruger (25). **Pittsburgh Naval Reactors/NNSA** – Henry A. Cardinali (35), Alan L. Gunn (25). **Richland** – Guy D. Schein (35), James D. Goodenough (30), Christopher S. Herndobler (30). **Rocky Flats** – Robert D. Vineski (25). **Savannah River** – Ronald T. Bartholomew (40), Bryan S. Drouin (35), Frederic D. Brown (25), Sylvia Z. Green-Ellis (25).

Southeastern Power – Jimmy L. Smith (30). **Southwestern Power** – Linda L. Mummey (25). **Strategic Petroleum Reserve** – Jo Ann R. Rochon (35), Michael E. McWilliams (30). **Y-12 Site/NNSA** – Donna H. Arakawa (25), Sherry B. Hardgrave (25). **Western Area Power** – Mary A. D'Amato (30), Joan I. Jessen (30), Elaine M. Komrs (30), Steven W. Janssen (25), Samuel D. Loftin (25), Wayne A. Pfeifer (25).

RETIREMENTS
July 2004
Headquarters

Intelligence – Wynne James III (53 years). **Management, Budget & Evaluation** – Gwendolyn S. Cowan (32). **Policy & International** – Robert I. Benny (30).

Field
Chicago – Harlow D. Troutman (40). **NETL** – Randolph R. Cooper (33). **NNSA Service Center** – Sandra M. Chavez (25), James J. Rose (25). **Sandia Site/NNSA** – Tom X. Goss (35). **Western Area Power** – Curtis L. Ginn (31), Raymond J. Kub (35). ❖

NEW Publications

Office of Inspector General (IG) reports: ***Unauthorized Handguns on National Nuclear Security Administration Aircraft*** (DOE/IG-0654); ***Groundwater Remediation Activities at Hanford*** (DOE/IG-0655); ***Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, October 1, 2003 – March 31, 2004*** (DOE/IG-0034). 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**.

Four new or updated publications are now available on the Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory website: ***The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory: An Overview*** (May 2004); ***National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX) Information Bulletin*** (June 2004); ***National Compact Stellarator Experiment (NCSX) Information Bulletin*** (June 2004); and ***Magnetic Reconnection Experiment (MRX) Information Bulletin*** (June 2004). The website address is **http://www.pppl.gov/publications/pages/publications.html**. ❖

August 2004

AROUND DOE

Environment-friendly ethanol debuts at Berkeley Lab

With the addition of a 4,000-gallon fuel tank in the motor pool, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) has become the first ethanol dispensing station in northern California. The cleaner-burning, high-octane, environment-friendly alternative to gasoline will soon power 60 vehicles in the laboratory's onsite pool, the largest ethanol-powered fleet in the state.

"By the end of this year, our flex-fuel fleet—those that are capable of using unleaded fuel and/or ethanol-85—will grow to about 75," Don Prestella, fleet manager at Berkeley Lab, said. "It is our goal to run all of them exclusively on ethanol. The total LBNL fleet numbers around 250 vehicles.

Berkeley Lab has become one of over 300 public and private "E-85" fueling facilities in more than 20 states. E-85 is a blend of 85 percent ethanol, a renewable biofuel called ethyl alcohol made from grain like corn, and 15 percent gasoline. The transition to ethanol means that the laboratory meets its alternative-fuel target for reduced air emissions, established in 1999 by Executive Order for all Federal facilities. The laboratory also uses biodiesel in all of its diesel vehicles, including buses. Much of Berkeley Lab's vehicle conversion was made possible by an $83,000 grant from DOE.

Cincinnati to be site for EM business center

The greater Cincinnati, Ohio, area has been selected as the site for the Department of Energy's (DOE) national Consolidated Business Center for DOE's Environmental Management program. The center will be a central clearinghouse for activities supporting DOE's national environmental cleanup mission, including financial management, contracting, human resources, and information resource management.

"This Consolidated Business Center will combine essential business and technical support services in one location to serve DOE's environmental management efforts all over the country," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "In short, it will allow us to do our job better, more efficiently, and at greater savings to the taxpayers."

The center's location is under review. It is expected to be operational within the next nine months.

DOE, USDA award funds for biomass R&D projects

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) have selected 22 projects to receive $25,480,628 under the Biomass Research and Development Initiative. The joint grant program is part of the Administration's effort to increase U.S. energy independence through the development of additional renewable energy resources from the agricultural and agroforestry sectors.

"Our agencies have been working together over the last few years to promote our nation's biomass resources, which we believe will enhance our energy security, provide for a cleaner environment, and help to revitalize America's rural economy," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "The projects announced today will move us closer to our goal of establishing biorefineries that produce power, fuels, chemicals, and other valuable products."

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy coordinated efforts to issue a joint solicitation that is awarding over $13 million in USDA funding and over $12 million from DOE appropriations. More than 400 applications were submitted in response. Information on each winning project is available at **http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov**. ❖

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

Official Business