

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report.

II. Departmental News

Congressional Hearings:

On March 17, Secretary Steven Chu will appear before the House Science and Technology Committee to testify on "New Directions for Energy Research and Development at the U.S. Department of Energy."

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328

On March 17, Tom D'Agostino, NNSA Administrator, NA-1 will testify before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies regarding Complex Transformation. This hearing was rescheduled from March 10.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Jim Lambert, 202-586-8343; Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328

On March 19, David Rodgers, EE-10 will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding appliance standards.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

Congressional Meetings and Briefings:

On March 17, John Lushetsky, EE and CI staff will meet with Senator Jeff Bingaman's staff (D-NM), Jonathan Epstein to discuss EERE issues.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

On March 17, John Lushetsky, EE and CI staff will meet with Representative Gabrielle Giffords' (D-AZ) staff to discuss solar energy.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

Congressional Site Visits and Events:

NREL Director Dan Arvizu will participate in a Congressional Hydrogen Caucus-sponsored panel on March 18, entitled "Zero Emissions Hydrogen and Fuel Cells - Key Investments." The panel will discuss the carbon emissions benefits of a hydrogen economy, early market commercialization, the progress of several companies and

research institutions in their RD&D partnering work with federal and state governments, and opportunities for the 111th Congress.

Dr. Arvizu will address “Zero Carbon Systems and Renewable Hydrogen.” Senators Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Congressman Bob Inglis (R-SC) will make opening remarks. Other panelists include: Dr. C.E. Thomas, H2Gen Innovations and the National Hydrogen Association; Russ Keller, South Carolina Research Authority; Jerome Hinkle, National Hydrogen Association; and Michael Holmes, Associate Director, Energy and Environmental Research Center, University of North Dakota.

Media Interest: Possible

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)
Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables
Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries
Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests
Nothing to report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

The Acting Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Annie Whatley will be in the office the week of March 16, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

Congressional Hearing before the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology, entitled "Ensuring Stimulus Contracts for Small and Veteran- Owned Businesses." The hearing took place on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Small Business Administration, Departments of Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and Defense, appeared before the Subcommittee along with DOE. The hearing primarily focused on what strategies and plans the agencies have to contracting with service-disabled veteran-owned businesses with Recovery funds. A panel of veteran-owned businesses followed the Government agency panel. Brenda DeGraffenreid was the witness for DOE.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Brenda DeGraffenreid, 586-4620

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

National Bankers Association, Annual Legislative and Regulatory Conference March 17- 19, 2009 - Office of Small and Disadvantaged Utilization staff will participate in the National Bankers Association's Annual Legislative and Regulatory Conference, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Conference will include representatives from Federal Government regulatory bodies, including the SBA, GAO, and Treasury.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Sterling Nichols, Jr. 586-8698

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule for Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Steve Chalk
Steve Chalk has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

II. Departmental News

Administration Announces Nearly \$8 Billion in Weatherization Funding and Energy Efficiency Grants, March 12. Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Chu detailed an investment of nearly \$8 billion in state and local weatherization and energy efficiency efforts as part of the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With an investment of about \$5 billion through the Weatherization Assistance Program and about \$3 billion for the State Energy Program, the DOE will partner with state and local governments to put 87,000 Americans to work and save families hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills.

Media Interest: National press

Program Contact: Gil Sperling, 202-287-1644

Clean Cities Celebrates 15th Anniversary, March 3. Clean Cities government-industry partnership celebrated 15 years of promoting the growth of alternative fuels and advanced technology vehicles with an event at DOE headquarters. Richard Moorer, Associate Undersecretary of Energy, spoke about the partnership's accomplishments and presented awards to the first six Clean Cities coalitions. The anniversary event also included a video history of alternative fuels and a panel discussion with past and present Clean Cities representatives.

Media Interest: Trade press

Program Contact: Linda Bluestein, 202-586-6116, Dennis Smith, 202-586-1791

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

VI. FOIA Requests

Date received: June 9, 2008

Requester: Gabriel Ristorucci, Change To Win

Subject: Form 129 provided by firms for their application to become DOE qualified ESCO's on DOE's qualified List of Energy Service companies.

Date received: September 10, 2008
Requester: John A. Hodges; Wiley Reid, LLP
Subject: Communication between DOE and Whirlpool Corporation.

Date received: October 5, 2008
Requester: John Herman; CSGRR
Subject: Information and documents relating to DOE's funding of any project lead by or participated in by Eaton Corporation.

Date received: October 31, 2008
Requester: Joel Van Winkle, Whirlpool Corporation
Subject: Energy consumption of French door bottom mount refrigerator, correspondence between LG Electronics from January 2006 to the present and Samsung Electronics from January 2007 to the present.

Date received: February 5, 2009
Requester: Michael W. Doxsey
Subject: Information related to alternative energy sources used for power consumption by prime movers.

Date received: February 11, 2009
Requester: Richard A. Steyer, Howe, Anderson and Streyer, PC
Subject: Documents, material, and communication relating to DOE's program for consumer products for central air conditioners and central air heat pumps.

Date received: March 6, 2009
Requester: David Lashway, Hunton & Williams, LLP
Subject: All correspondence between DOE and AeroSys, Inc. from January 1, 2007 to the present regarding AeroSys, Inc.'s compliance with Energy Conservation and Policy Act and DOE's regulations.

Date received: March 10, 2009
Requester: Ronald Screinder, Oak Park, MI
Subject: Clean Cars

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
Nothing to report during this reporting period.

**ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report

II. Departmental News

Briefing for Representative Bill Foster on EIA Electricity Data: Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL) was briefed on electricity data. He was most interested in data on the cost of producing electricity by fuel type, and would like to pursue the collection of additional data on generation costs. Rep. Foster has a doctorate in physics from Harvard University, and worked as a researcher at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) for 22 years.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Robert Schnapp, EI-53, 202-586-5114

EIA Data on Natural Gas Use in Manufacturing: Staff from House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was provided with information on the number of manufacturing establishments that may exceed a specified threshold of natural gas use. It is our understanding that they will use this information to evaluate the implications of proposed thresholds for emissions from industrial facilities being considered as climate change legislation is developed.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Mark Schipper, EI-63, 586-1136

National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) To Meet with EIA: National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has asked EIA to provide feedback on NRDC research being conducted to track State-level energy intensity as a means to base Federal incentives on performance in energy efficiency. The NRDC is interested in the technical feasibility of, and costs associated with, increasing the frequency of State-level data reporting from annual to semi-annual or quarterly. The timeliness of State-level data reporting from EIA's State Energy Data System (SEDS) is addressed in EIA's State Energy Data Needs Assessment, which was submitted to Congress in January 2009, pursuant to Section 805(d) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), Public Law 110-140.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Barbara Fichman, EI-64, 586-5737

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Briefing on Annual Energy Outlook 2009 for White House Staff. Joe Aldy, Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Environmental Policy, requested the briefing, which will take place sometime next week. The request appears to be motivated by

current use of the AEO2009 in policy discussions related to a variety of issues.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Howard Gruenspecht, EI-2, 586-6351

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Energy Information Administration (EIA) Releases the Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO): On March 10, 2009, EIA released the March 2009 Short-Term Energy Outlook. Highlights of this report are: (1) the global economic contraction continues to depress energy demand; (2) the annual price of West Texas Intermediate is projected to average \$42 per barrel in 2009 and \$53 in 2010; (3) retail gasoline prices are projected to average \$1.96 per gallon in 2009 and \$2.18 per gallon in 2010; and (4) the Henry Hub natural gas spot price is projected to decline from an average of \$9.13 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf) in 2008 to about \$4.70 per Mcf in 2009, but then increase in 2010 to an average of almost \$5.90 per Mcf.

Media Interest: **High**

Program Contact: **Tancred Lidderdale, EI-62, 586-7321**

EIA Updates Monthly International Petroleum Data: EIA staff has posted its most recent world oil market statistics on the Web at: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/ipm>, including world petroleum supply statistics through December 2008. In addition, the data shows estimates for petroleum demand, stocks, and imports for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries through November 2008 and estimates of the world oil balance for 2004-2008.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Patricia Smith, EI-64, 586-6925

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will attend the EM Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting in Augusta, GA on March 18, 2009. James Owendoff, Chief Operations Officer, will act in her behalf.

II. Key Departmental News

III.

Remote-Controlled Device Begins Cleaning Outside of Underground Waste Tanks at the Savannah River Site (SRS), a first in the DOE Complex: On March 3, 2009, a remote-controlled device began cleaning radioactive waste tank annulus space at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Site (SRS), a first in the DOE Complex. The waste tanks that have an annulus are built to have a-cup-and-saucer arrangement, with the annulus area serving as the saucer with five-foot-high concrete walls. The annulus serves as a barrier to keep the waste from the environment. The work on both tanks is scheduled to be completed within a few months. "To properly empty and close waste tanks, we want to safely remove as much waste as practical," said Terrel Spears, Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Project, DOE-Savannah River Operations Office. "I'm pleased we have been able to take another significant step in this process." The robotic device that will be used to clean the annulus is known as a wall-crawler. It has been modified to clean the area. The new wall crawler is equipped with a brush and nozzle assembly, as well as a video camera. In the cleaning process, when workers see a salt nodule on the wall of an empty tank, the crawler can pressure-spray water on the area and brush clean the leak site. The crawler's work will allow the salt waste material in the annulus and from the wall to be flushed out and put back into the waste tank. From there, it can be pumped to other tanks for disposition. The Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) manages the Liquid Waste contract at SRS for DOE.

Media Interest: Regional. Local. National

Program Contact: Terrel J. Spears, (803) 208-6072.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH) Hits Disposal Milestone: WCH reached 2 million tons of contaminated material disposed at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) (located at the Hanford Site in Washington State) since assuming operation of the facility in August 2005. The total disposed since the facility began operation in 1996 is over eight million tons.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Owen Robertson, (509) 373-6295

No Lost Time Incidents Experienced at Moab Site: The Remedial Action Contractor has worked 2,000 days without a "lost time incident". This milestone has been accomplished with approximately 80 full time contractor and subcontractor employees

building the infrastructure required for shipping the uranium mill tailings from the Moab site to the Crescent Junction disposal site.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Don Metzler, 970-257-2115

IV. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest

Dedication of the New State Department Building: There will be a dedication ceremony in early April for the new State Department Building at the HAMMER facility located at Hanford, Washington. The date is still not finalized, as it revolves around the availability of State Department officials and Congressman Doc Hastings' schedules. This building will allow for dedicated space for the conduct of training by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the international border protection initiative. The building will be turned over to DOE ownership by the State Department upon completion of construction.

Media Interest: Local

Program Contact: Jim Spracklen, (509) 376-4227

Representative Paul Broun, (R-GA-12 District), to Visit the Savannah River Site (SRS): Representative Broun will visit SRS on April 14, 2009, for an aerial tour of SRS and a visit to the Savannah River National Laboratory.

Media Interest: None Anticipated

Program Contact: Jim Giusti, (803) 952-7684

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

University Nevada Reno Materials Research Grant: EM and NE staff met with researchers from the University Nevada Reno to discuss their research in the molten salt electrorefining of uranium. This research is being funded by approximately a \$2.7 million grant from EM. Results from the electrochemical reprocessing experiments may potentially improve electrorefining operations at the Materials and Fuels Complex of the Idaho National Laboratory. NE has expressed interest in the potential applicability of this research to the Office of Nuclear Energy's Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Gary Peterson, 301-903-1619

**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule - Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Der

All travel and speaking engagements reported through April 3.

II. Key Departmental News

NETL Initiates Leadership Program for Young Scientists and Engineers from India. NETL staff met with faculty, students, and research fellows at several of India's leading educational institutions and national laboratories to launch a new international post-graduate program consistent with education and outreach objectives of high-level, multi-national partnerships such as the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. Through the Young Scientists and Engineers Leadership Program, NETL aims to attract young researchers interested in specializing in the areas of carbon capture, transport, and storage. Organizations visited included Anna University, the Indian Institutes of Technology in Madras and Delhi, the National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad, and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute in Nagpur. NETL and its university partners are contacting several prospective candidates who expressed interest in the Program.

Program Contacts: Venkat Venkataraman, 304/285-4105; Madhava Syamlal, 304/285-4685

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (14-day advance)

None

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

None

V. Press Inquiries

None

VI. FOIA Requests

None

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

None

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

No leave or travel plans.

II. Departmental News

NINTH CIRCUIT UPHOLDS STATE REGULATION OF TRANSURANIC MIXED WASTE

State of Washington v. Chu (E.D. Wa.). The Ninth Circuit issued an opinion holding that the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act does not exempt mixed transuranic and hazardous waste designated for disposal at WIPP from the state's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) based enforcement of land disposal and storage restrictions, prior to its receipt at WIPP. (M. Kasischke, GC-31, 586-8334)

MANDAMUS GRANTED IN PART, DENIED IN PART, IN ELK HILLS DISCOVERY DISPUTE

Chevron U.S.A. v. United States (Fed. Cl.). The Federal Circuit denied in part and granted in part the Government's petition for a writ of mandamus, which asked the court to vacate the trial court's order concerning privileged documents withheld from Chevron in discovery. With respect to the Government's attorney-client privilege claims, which the trial court rejected based on the application of a misconduct exception, the Federal Circuit concluded that the attorney-client privilege should not protect documents incident to asserted misconduct in the context of a specific agreement. Concerning the Government's attorney work-product privilege claims, the Federal Circuit affirmed the trial court's order that the factual portions of work-product be produced, but upheld the Government's privilege claims for documents reflecting attorney thought process (opinion work-product). The Federal Circuit further agreed with the Government that the factual portions of draft agency decisions are protected by the deliberative process privilege. In this action Chevron alleges that the Department of Energy has breached a May 1997 agreement concerning the determination of the final equity shares of DOE and Chevron Texaco in the Elk Hills Field, an oil and gas producing property. (P. Michael, GC-31, 586-1303 and A. Mitrani, GC-31, 586-5550)

SUIT CHALLENGING FAILURE TO FUND GASIFICATION PROCESS DISMISSED

Energy Security of America Corp. v. United States (Fed. Cl.). The court granted our motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The court held that the plaintiffs' claims were time barred, but that even if they were not, the action would still have to be dismissed for failure to state a claim. This is an action alleging that DOE's

failure to fund a demonstration project for the plaintiffs' patented process of gasifying coal constituted a "taking" of that patent under the Fifth Amendment. (D. Crockett, GC-31, 586-1465)

APPELLANTS' OPENING BRIEF FILED IN ROCKY FLATS APPEAL

Cook v. Rockwell International Corp. (10th Cir.). The defendants filed their opening brief. Under the court's schedule, the plaintiffs' brief is due July 7, 2009. This is a class action tort suit against DOE's former contractors at Rocky Flats brought on behalf of local property owners who allege that releases of radioactive materials diminished their property values. A jury rendered a verdict for the property-owner class in February, 2006, finding the defendants liable for trespass and nuisance, and the district court subsequently issued a Final Judgment pursuant to Rule 54(b), Fed. R. Civ. P. against the defendants in the amount of \$926.1 million (inclusive of pre-judgment interest). The district court previously stayed the judgment without bond until the appeal process is completed. (A. Fingeret, GC-31, 586-5678)

ORAL ARGUMENT IN TRANSFORMERS CASE

The People of California v. DOE (9th Cir.). Oral argument was heard. In this case, the State of California, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council have petitioned the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for review of DOE's establishment of energy conservation standards applicable to electrical distribution transformers. DOE published those standards at 72 Fed. Reg. 58,190 (October 12, 2007). (A. Mitrani, GC-31, 586-5550)

ORAL ARGUMENT IN WEST VALLEY APPEAL

Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes v. DOE (2d Cir.). Oral argument was held. The district court previously granted the Government's motion for summary judgment and dismissed the case. The court held that DOE's decision to prepare two EIS's (for waste management and site closure) neither violated the parties' 1987 stipulation nor constituted impermissible segmentation under NEPA. This is an action by a citizens' group for declaratory and injunctive relief alleging violations of NEPA and a 1987 stipulation in connection with waste management and closure activities at the West Valley site. (J. Masters, GC-31, 586-3415)

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Key Departmental News

Nothing to report in this area.

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report in this area.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report in this area.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report in this area.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report in this area.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report in this area.

**OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Departmental News

Cases Received: The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received five new cases: 1) two requests by individuals requesting that a hearing be conducted under 10 CFR Part 710 to determine their eligibility to hold a DOE security clearance; 2) two appeals filed under the Freedom of Information Act, 10 CFR 1004.1; and 3) one request by a firm seeking exception relief from the reporting requirements to file Form EIA-782B, Resellers'/Retailers' Monthly Petroleum Product Sales Report.

Hearings Conducted:

OHA Hearing Officers conducted personnel security hearings (10 CFR Part 710) in Los Alamos, NM, in Albuquerque, NM and in Fort Smith, AR.

Decisions Issued:

Personnel Security (10 CFR Part 710)

On March 6, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which she concluded that an individual's suspended DOE access authorization should be restored. A DOE Operations Office suspended the individual's security clearance citing a diagnosis of a DOE psychiatrist that the individual met the criteria for alcohol dependence, as a security concern. After conducting a hearing and evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer found that the individual presented sufficient evidence to fully resolve the security concern raised by his past alcohol use. In making her determination, the Hearing Officer relied on the testimony of the individual and his witnesses that he had been abstinent from alcohol for approximately ten months, completed both an inpatient treatment and intensive outpatient treatment programs, attended weekly aftercare counseling sessions, and attended several Alcoholics Anonymous meetings each week. Based on these factors, the Hearing Officer agreed with the opinion of the DOE psychiatrist that the individual presented evidence establishing adequate rehabilitation and reformation from his alcohol dependence. OHA Case No. TSO-0683 (Diane DeMoura, 287-1887)

On March 9, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which he concluded that an individual should be granted an access authorization. During its investigation of the individual, the DOE learned that he had attempted suicide and had been treated for depression. A DOE psychiatrist subsequently evaluated the individual and concluded that he suffered from a mental or emotional condition that caused, or could cause, a defect in his judgment or reliability, with inadequate evidence of reformation or rehabilitation. After conducting a hearing and evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer concluded that the security concerns regarding

the individual were sufficiently mitigated. In reaching this conclusion, the Hearing Officer considered the testimony of the DOE psychiatrist and the individual's psychiatrist, both of whom concluded that, as of the date of the hearing, the individual was exhibiting adequate evidence of reformation and rehabilitation, and the fact that the individual had not experienced a depressive episode for six years. OHA Case No. TSO-0672 (Robert B. Palmer, 287-1449)

On March 9, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a Decision in which he concluded that an individual's DOE access authorization should not be restored. A DOE Operations Office referred the individual's request for a security clearance to administrative review citing the individual's past use of marijuana, his failure to list the marijuana use on two DOE security questionnaires, and his association with users of marijuana as security concerns. After conducting a hearing and evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer found that the individual presented sufficient evidence to fully resolve the concern raised by his past marijuana use, based on: (1) the infrequency of the individual's use, (2) his age at the time of use, (3) the passage of time since, and (4) the individual's stated intent to completely abstain from using illegal drugs in the future and to not associate with those who do so. The Hearing Officer also found the concern related to his association with users of illegal drugs to be resolved, noting that the individual had not understood association to include being in the presence of individuals who are users of illegal drugs, even if those individuals are not in the possession of such drugs. However, the Hearing Officer determined that there was insufficient information in the record to adequately mitigate the concern raised by the individual's falsification of two DOE security questionnaires. The individual admitted in a Personnel Security Interview that he had not provided truthful answers on the questionnaires, but at the hearing claimed that he had. The individual offered no credible evidence that would explain the contradictions in his various accounts of his past marijuana use. OHA Case No. TSO-0687 (Steven J. Goering, 287-1541)

On March 11, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision finding that DOE should not restore an individual's access authorization. A local security office (LSO) suspended the individual's access authorization due to three security concerns: (i) a DOE psychiatrist diagnosed him with alcohol dependence; (ii) alcohol dependence is an illness that may cause a significant defect in judgment and reliability; and (iii) he signed three DOE Security Acknowledgments, stating that he understood that if a psychiatrist diagnosed him with alcohol dependence, he may lose his access authorization. The individual attempted to resolve all three security concerns by arguing that he has reformed and rehabilitated himself from his alcohol dependence. The Hearing Officer found that the individual maintained a year of sobriety, obtained professional treatment, and participated in Alcoholics Anonymous. However, given the individual's long drinking history, the Hearing Officer found that the individual's risk of relapse is too high to resolve the security concerns. The individual's previous relapse, coming after dramatic consequences from previous relapses, suggested that to lower his risk of relapse, the individual must remain sober longer than he has previously. His single year of sobriety fell far short of his longest period of sobriety, two years and three months. OHA Case No. TSO-0685 (David M. Petrush, 287-1382)

Appeal

On March 9, 2009, the OHA issued a decision denying an Appeal filed by Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) of an Initial Agency Decision (IAD) issued by an OHA Hearing Officer in connection with a whistleblower complaint filed by Dennis D. Patterson (Patterson) against BEA, under the DOE Contractor Employee Protection Program, 10 CFR Part 708. In the IAD, the Hearing Officer determined that Patterson was entitled to relief under Part 708 based upon findings that Patterson had engaged in protected activity that was a contributing factor in adverse personnel actions taken against him by BEA, and that BEA had failed to show by clear and convincing evidence that it would have taken the same actions against Patterson in the absence of his protected activity. *Dennis Patterson*, Case No. TBH-0047 (June 20, 2008). In its Appeal, BEA contended that an investigation it initiated against Patterson, even if initiated for a retaliatory purpose, cannot constitute a Part 708 "retaliation." The Appeal decision rejected this contention as inconsistent with the Part 708 definition of "retaliation," the Part 708 preamble, and OHA precedent. BEA also contended that it had presented clear and convincing evidence that it would have taken the same actions in the absence of the protected activity. The Appeal rejected this contention, on the ground that the BEA had not demonstrated that the Hearing Officer erred in her conclusions. OHA Case No. TBA-0047 (Janet Freimuth, 287-1439)

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

No FEAR Act Report to Congress: The Office received final concurrences for the FY 2008 No FEAR Act Report to Congress. The report is currently being printed, and will be issued on or before the regulatory deadline of March 31, 2009.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

EEOC MD-715 Report: The Office circulated the draft FY2008 Federal Agency Annual EEO Program Status Report (EEOC MD-715 Report) to the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Human Capital Management for concurrence. We anticipate receiving concurrences, and submitting the report to the EEOC by March 31, 2009.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Title IX Letter of Finding: The Office completed a draft Letter of Finding on the Title IX compliance review conducted at the University of Washington, Seattle Campus. The draft will be sent to the University for review and comment before it is issued in final form.

Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

Title IX Compliance Review: The Office is making final preparations for a Title IX compliance review to be conducted at North Carolina State University March 16-20, 2009. DOE employees from OCR, HG, and various field offices will participate in the Title IX compliance review, which will focus on the University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act Seminar: On Tuesday, April 7, the Office will host a seminar on the new Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act. The speaker for the seminar will be Christopher Kuczynski, Assistant Legal Counsel for EEOC's ADA Policy Division. Representatives from the Office of Human Capital Management, the Office of General Counsel, NNSA, DOE field EEO/Diversity Managers, and others will be invited to participate.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Employee Concerns Annual Activity Report: A draft of the Employee Concerns Program (ECP) Annual Activity Report for fiscal year 2008 has been completed, and is in the final stages of review. Among the highlights from the year, 643 employees utilized the program, and ECP managers throughout the DOE complex closed 467 of 524 concerns. The resulting closure rate of 88% represents the highest closure rate in the thirteen years of tracking such data, and a significant increase above the 79% average closure rate of the previous twelve years.

Contact: Bill Lewis, x6-6530

Media Interest: No

DOE Contact: Bill Lewis, bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov, 6-6530

III. ~~Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)~~

IV. Progress on IPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule: Glenn S. Podonsky, Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer

March 10: Provided opening remarks at the 11th Annual Chemical Management Workshop at DOE HQ regarding DOE's perspective on chemical safety. (See item below for additional information.) The Deputy Chief for Operations accompanied.

March 12: Addressed the Energy Facilities Contractor Group (EFCOG) Board of Directors at DOE HQ regarding key HSS initiatives.

March 17: Recognize members of the Green Computing and Green Building Teams for their efforts in enabling the Department to achieve a "green" score on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Environmental Stewardship Scorecard. Representatives from HQ and Program offices are expected to attend. The Deputy Chief for Enforcement and Technical Matters will accompany.

Schedule: Michael A. Kilpatrick, Deputy Chief for Operations

See Chief's schedule.

Schedule: William A. Eckroade, Acting Deputy Chief for Enforcement and Technical Matters

See Chief's schedule.

II. Departmental News

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Personally Identifiable Information (PII): As a result of the loss of a computer disk containing PII, HSS has taken the following steps: 1) ordered a stand down for all sites supporting both the Former Worker Program (FWP) and Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) programs; 2) commenced an investigation to identify the nature and circumstances of the incident, the adequacy of FWP and DOE EEOICPA procedures for protecting the substantial volumes of privacy information they are entrusted with, how the data is protected when transmitted to NIOSH and Department of Labor (DOL), the level of risks associated with management of the privacy information by these programs, and the timeliness and accuracy of the incident reporting; 3) notified the Idaho Governors Office, Congressional offices of the Idaho delegation, and Congressional committees; 4) coordinated with DOL and NIOSH to minimize the impact of the shutdown; and 5) commenced notification of all current and former INL workers, offering them free credit monitoring and providing a toll free phone number for additional information.

Management Impact: The results of the investigation will be used to revise methods used to protect sensitive information such as PII.

Media Interest: The DOE Press release was pick-up in the local Idaho news.

Program Contact: Glenn S. Podonsky, (301) 903-3777

Other Government Agencies (OGAs) Classification/Declassification Training:

1. Two half-day Restricted Data (RD)/Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) Recognition and Record Processing Seminars were presented to FBI declassification reviewers in Winchester, VA, this week (March 12).
2. A 4-day Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers course is scheduled to be conducted next week (March 16-20) for reviewers from the Army Declassification Office in Springfield, VA.

Management Impact: These activities support DOE's responsibility to assist OGAs to identify RD and FRD and prevent the inadvertent release of sensitive nuclear technologies.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Annual Report to Congress on DOE Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB): HSS provided the Annual Report this week (March 12) for final review and approval.

Management Impact: The report is being prepared per Section 316(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 requiring DOE to submit an annual written report to Congress addressing the Department's DNFSB-related activities.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

11th Annual Chemical Management Workshop: HSS hosted the annual workshop at the DOE Headquarters Forrestal auditorium, this week (March 10-12). This year's theme: "Chemical Safety and Lifecycle Management Workshop – Lean and Green" focused on topics that included 10 C.F.R. 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*; cost-effective chemical management; green chemistry; nanotechnology; global harmonization; and aging-related issues. Approximately 300 personnel attended in person and via videoconference.

Management Impact: The Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer provided opening remarks on March 10.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Independent Oversight Activities:

1. National Training Center (NTC) Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (March 9-12).
2. NNSA-SC Classified Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (March 9-12).
3. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) Emergency Management and Environment, Safety and Health Combined Inspection: Onsite scoping activities were conducted this week (March 11-12).
4. Pantex Environment, Safety and Health Inspection: Onsite planning activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (March 16-20).

5. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted March 23-26.
6. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Emergency Management Follow-up Appraisal: Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted March 23-26.
7. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Classification and Information Control Inspection: Onsite inspection activities are scheduled to be conducted March 23-27.

Management Impact: These activities support the independent evaluation of the status of the Department's security, cyber security, emergency management, and environment, safety and health (ES&H) programs.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:

- March 9: The responsible manager briefed the Board on Recommendation 2008-1, *Safety Classification of Fire Protection Systems*, and Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, implementation plans activities.
- March 10: One Board member attended the DOE sponsored Chemical Safety Workshop in the Forrestal Building.
- March 11-13: The Board traveled to Y-12 for a site visit.
- March 18-20: Two Board members will attend the DOE/NNSA sponsored Nuclear Suppliers Outreach Event in Augusta, GA.
- March 19: The Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, NNSA will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- March 20: Bechtel, Inc. management will provide a quarterly status update to the Board.
- March 23: Environmental Management (EM) will brief the Board on the recently established EM Technical Authority Board.
- March 24: The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- March 26: The responsible manager will brief the Board on Recommendation 2007-1, *Safety-related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials*, implementation plan activities.
- March 26: The Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) will brief the Board on Quality Assurance activities and verifying implementation of specific administrative controls changes developed in response to Recommendation 2002-3, *Requirements for Design, Implementation and Maintenance of Administrative Control*, and validation of safety basis controls changes.

Management Impact: Information is provided to keep DOE Senior Management aware of DNFSB activities and interests.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report

II. Departmental News

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

David Geiser, is Acting Director for Office of Legacy Management

II. Departmental News

Approval of the Yucca Mountain General Workforce Restructuring Plan: On March 12, 2009, the Office of Legacy Management approved the Yucca Mountain General Workforce Restructuring Plan. LM previously approved the release of the draft Yucca Mountain Workforce Restructuring Plan for stakeholder comment on February 26, 2009. No comments were received specific to the plan during the public comment period. The plan represents the general framework within which the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management contractors' workforce restructuring actions will be conducted in the future.

Contact: Tony Carter, 6-3323

Media Interest: None

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Office of Public Affairs:

On March 11, 2009, the Department's Office of Public Affairs (PA) received an inquiry from a New Jersey reporter for the Star-Ledger regarding planned development of the New Brunswick, NJ, Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program site. PA contacted the Office of Legacy Management to assist in responding to the reporter's questions related to radioactive contamination at the site relative to the planned development activity. The article, referencing the response for the Department, appeared on the Star-Ledger website on March 12, 2009.

Contact: Christopher Clayton, 6-9043

Media Interest: None

VI. FOIA Requests

Date of Request: 02/26/2009
Requester: Dorothy Helen Winn
Subject Matter: Personnel and Medical Records

Date of Request: 03/04/2009
Requester: Larry R. Ferris
Subject Matter: Medical Records for time employed at Rocky Flats.

Date of Request: 02/23/2009
Requester: Diane M. Matthews
Subject Matter: Documentation of all jobs titles and dates of employment while at EG&G Mound.

Date of Request: 03/03/2009
Requester: Douglas J. Duke
Subject Matter: Information pertaining to Project Rulison, and atom bomb detonation in 1969 near Rulison, Colorado.

Date of Request: 03/04/2009
Requester: Clifford Lawson
Subject Matter: Employment, Medical, Personnel, and EEOICPA Records.

Date of Request: 03/09/2009
Requester: Jimmy Moore
Subject Matter: Audiograms/hearing and medical records.

Date of Request: 03/06/2009
Requester: Roger D. Ewing
Subject Matter: Personnel and Medical Records.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Departmental News

Award of Task Order for Energy Information Administration: On February 27, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a task order to Z, Inc., a small business concern, to conduct a wide range of data collection and analytical activities for the Energy Information Administration, Dallas Field Office. The total value of the task order is \$2.8M for a 15-month period of performance.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Ryan Miller, (202) 287-1487

Selection for Specialized Legal Services for the Loan Guarantee Program: On February 27, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management selected Chadbourne & Parke LLP to provide specialized legal services to the Office of the General Counsel during three broad phases that generally characterize the loan guarantee process for the loan guarantee application submitted by Endicott Biofuels II, LLC. Chadbourne & Parke will also provide oral and written analysis, advice and recommendations, including briefs, memoranda and letters to support opinions on issues analyzed and evaluated in the Endicott Project. A Matching Order was issued to Chadbourne & Parke LLP for services through August 31, 2009. The cost of the services is estimated at \$628,835.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Richard Bonnell, (202) 287-1508 or Jackie Kniskern, (202) 287-1342

Selection for Technical and Engineering Consulting Services for the Loan Guarantee Program: On March 3, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management selected Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc., to provide expert, independent verification of the viability of the engineering, technical and construction aspects of the loan guarantee application submitted by BrightSource Energy, Inc. Parsons will also report on BrightSource's progress in constructing and operating a large solar powered facility based on a solar concentration thermal design in which a solar field is comprised of thousands of heliostats (mirrors) directing sunlight onto a receiver (boiler) which sits atop a solar tower. A Matching Order was issued to Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc., for services through April 30, 2013. The cost of the services is estimated at \$654,447.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Richard Bonnell, (202) 287-1508 or Jackie Kniskern, (202) 287-1342

Selection for Specialized Legal Services for the Loan Guarantee Program: On March 5, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management selected Haynes & Boone LLP to provide specialized legal services to the Office of the General Counsel during three broad phases that generally characterize the loan guarantee process for the loan guarantee application submitted by Sage Electrochromics, Inc. Haynes & Boone LLP will also provide oral and written analysis, advice and recommendations, including briefs, memoranda and letters to support opinions on issues analyzed and evaluated in the Sage Project. A Matching Order was issued to Haynes & Boone LLP for services through September 30, 2009. The cost of the services is estimated at \$225,520.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Richard Bonnell, (202) 287-1508 or Jackie Kniskern, (202) 287-1342

Advanced Procurement Planning: The Director, Office of Headquarters Procurement Services issued a Memorandum on February 27, 2009, to Headquarters Program Office Resource Managers announcing the establishment of a dedicated advance procurement planning liaison capability within the Office of Headquarters Procurement Services (MA-64). The purpose is to facilitate the preparation and flow of procurement request packages that lead to the timely award of high quality contract and financial assistance instruments. The Advance Planning Liaison Official (APLO), located within the Corporate Services Office (MA-64.1), will communicate on a regular basis with individual program office representatives to ensure quality procurement support needs are identified and appropriately serviced at the earliest practicable stages of the procurement process. In support of this initiative, MA-64 has established an Advance Procurement Planning Tracking System, populated with an initial inventory of 195 active procurement and assistance instruments with a total award value of approximately \$1.6 billion.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Craig Ashline, (202) 287-1412

Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Review. The Office of Engineering and Construction Management (OECM) conducted an EVMS review the week of March 9, at Moab, UT. The purpose of the review was to assess whether Energy Solutions' EVMS was compliant with the ANSI/EIA-748 (current version) EVMS standard.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Cynthia Seiter, (202) 586- 9548

- III. **Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)**
- IV. **Progress on EPACT Deliverables**
- V. **Press Inquiries**
- VI. **FOIA Requests**
- VII. **Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

**OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary R. Shane Johnson has no official travel next week.

II. Departmental News

Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Submitted for Business Clearance: On March 9, 2009, the NGNP FOA was submitted for Business Clearance. The NGNP FOA proposes to assist up to two applicants in conceptual design, research and development, and licensing activities. This FOA is aimed at completing the scope of work defined by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 as NGNP Phase 1. Briefings for the Office of Management and Budget will be scheduled upon approval by the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. The FOA will require cost sharing by the applicants as required per the cost sharing provisions of the Energy Policy Act.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Trevor Cook, NE-33, 301-903 7046

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) at U.S. Universities for Infrastructure: The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a new FOA on March 11, 2009, valued at least \$2.25 million, to fund equipment and infrastructure upgrades at U.S. universities, which will enhance university ability to conduct cutting-edge nuclear research and development. Infrastructure includes equipment and instrumentation for research reactors and other nuclear science and engineering laboratories and facilities. Applications for the Infrastructure FOA are due on April 15, 2009. DOE anticipates announcing the selection by mid-June 2009 with grants issued by the end of September 2009.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Suibel Schuppner, NE-31, 301-903-1652

Office of Nuclear Energy Participates in “The Atlantic Council of the United States” (ACUS) Conference on U.S.- China Cooperation on Nuclear Power, March 6 -7, 2009: General Richard Lawson, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, of ACUS, and Professor WU Zongxin, Institute of the Nuclear and New Energy Technology, Tsinghua University Co-Chaired the ACUS meeting in Washington, D.C. The Office of Nuclear Energy presented overview presentations on *Cooperation on the Fuel Cycle* and *U.S.-China Bilateral Action Plan* direction and activities, and overview of the *Generation IV* program. Presentations from China stressed the importance of cooperation in

accelerating the construction of new nuclear plants, particularly in the areas of delivery of high-quality components and training a qualified workforce to construct and operate nuclear plants.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: John Herczeg, NE-5, 301-903-1175

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest

IV. Progress on Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

No activities to report.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

On March 16-24, William Ostendorff, Principal Deputy Administrator, currently performing the duties of the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, will be on leave. Gerald Talbot, the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, will be the senior leader for the Office of Defense Programs.

On March 26-27, Ken Baker, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, will travel to Philadelphia, PA for a radiological table top exercise and a national security forum. On March 30 - April 1, Mr. Baker will travel to Vienna, Austria, to attend the IAEA Nuclear Symposium.

II. Departmental News

Event: National Ignition Facility (NIF) Update: On February 26, the first 192-beam system shot to the center of the target chamber was conducted at the NIF. The shot was fired with an average energy of 420 Joules in the ultraviolet delivered from each beam-line, the equivalent of greater than 80 kilo-Joules of total energy. This accomplishment demonstrates the operability of the total NIF system. Diagnostic data was evaluated by a subcommittee of the National Ignition Campaign Review Committee to determine if Laser Performance Requirements, incorporated into the NIF Project Completion Criteria were achieved. The subcommittee concluded that...“each and every one of the laser performance Completion Criteria...has been met or exceeded.” This independent assessment validated that the laser satisfied the established performance criteria.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Scott Samuelson, NA-123.2, 925-423-0593.

Event: Gas Gun Relocation Stopped: Effective March 6, due to FY09 funding priorities, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) elected to cease construction of the RTBF Institutional Site Support (ISS) Gas Gun Relocation Project. Initially, ISS was slated to receive \$1.9M in FY09, after receiving \$1.19M in FY08; the first year of a three-year project. The project would allow relocation of existing gas guns from B341 to the High-Explosives Application Facility, B191. This would permit B341 to be declared excess and eventually demolished.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Tony Sy, AMNSI, 925-422-0900.

Event: Employees Potentially Sensitized to Beryllium: LLNL identified 8 of 181 recently tested employees as potentially sensitized to beryllium. A second Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Test (BeLPT) was taken and analyzed to confirm if the

employees are sensitized (per 10 CFR 850). To increase confidence in the results, the second BeLPT is split and sent to two labs independent of the lab that analyzed the first BeLPT.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Dan Field, AMTS, 925-423-9519.

Event: Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER)

Investigation: Nevada Site Office (NSO) program, nuclear safety, and health physics personnel are participating in daily JASPER team activities and constantly communicating with the team and their counterparts. In the next two weeks, LLNL will successfully re-enter the Secondary Confinement Chamber and begin the forensics to determine the cause of contamination. Actual progress will depend on encountered conditions; worker protection and safety is our primary concern.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Charlotte Carter, NSO, 702-295-3128.

Event: Air Force Fact-Finding Visit to Kansas City Plant (KCP): On February 24, the Air Force visited KCP to gain insight on how we account for and dispose of classified and sensitive nuclear weapon-related material. The Air Force team of six individuals from the Air Logistics Centers was impressed with what they saw during the visit. Further, they expressed an interest in exploring additional Work-For-Other opportunities with NNSA.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Robert Stevens, NA-122.21, 505-845-5192.

Event: Visit by the First Deputy of the Federal Customs Service (FCS) of Russia to NNSA's Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program in Washington, DC: During the week of March 16, the FCS First Deputy Vladimir Malinin will be in Washington, DC to meet with NNSA senior management. Mr. Malinin will also visit the Peace Bridge border crossing near Buffalo, NY, to evaluate the non-intrusive inspection equipment used at that site. FCS is considering the procurement of x-ray machines to augment SLD installed equipment at Russian sites. In 2006, SLD and the FCS signed an agreement to share the cost of equipping all border crossings in Russia.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Bruce Pentola, NA-25, 202-586-7467.

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Event: NNSA Hosts "Liberty Thunder" Radiological Table Top Exercise: On March 26, NNSA, in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania, will host "Liberty Thunder," a radiological table top exercise in Philadelphia, PA. The exercise provides an opportunity for senior managers from local and city organizations to exercise crisis management and consequence management skills in response to a terrorist incident. The unclassified scenario will depict the theft of a high-activity radiological source that could be used in a radiological dispersal device (RDD) incident. Approximately 20-22 principal players and 100 observers from Federal, state, and local law enforcement and

other agencies and organizations in the Philadelphia area will participate in “Liberty Thunder.” Tom D’Agostino, Ken Baker, and Steve Aoki will attend the exercise. This event will not be open to the public.

Media Interest: None (CLOSED).

POC: Ioanna Iliopolus, NA-21, 202-586-1881.

Event: NNSA Hosts National Security Forum in Philadelphia, PA: On March 27, NNSA will host a national security forum to discuss domestic radiological security.

During the forum, NNSA will recognize the University of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia for their national security leadership as the first civilian site in the U.S. to complete comprehensive radiological security upgrades under the NNSA’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). The forum will be open to the public and will highlight the benefits and risks of radiological materials, as well as solutions to mitigate those risks. Invitations have been extended to Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey, Representative Chaka Fattah, Governor Edward Rendell, Mayor Michael Nutter and Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey. The Department of Homeland Security, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have also been invited to the forum. Administrator Tom D’Agostino, Ken Baker, and Steve Aoki will attend the forum.

Media Interest: High.

POC: Ioanna Iliopolus, NA-21, 202-586-1881.

Event: NNSA Announces the 15th Anniversary of Cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology: During the week of March 23, NNSA expects to issue a press release to commemorate the 15th anniversary of cooperation between the Office of Nonproliferation and International Security and the Morocco National Center for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Techniques. Over the past 15 years, the U.S. and Morocco have engaged in over a dozen activities to ensure that nuclear technology is used safely, securely, and consistent with international nonproliferation obligations. These activities, which have included emergency management, research reactor operation, and joint security training exercises, promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, as called for by Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Media Interest: Low.

POC: John McClelland-Kerr, NA-24, 202-586-5353.

Event: Y-12 Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) Lathe Increases Production Efficiency and Reduces Operational Costs: In early March, first use was demonstrated ahead of schedule on a modern lathe required for Life Extension Program production operations. The existing manual lathe was installed in 1969 and required highly skilled craftsmanship to operate. The modern CNC lathe supported by the Y-12 Stockpile Services Program, is fully enclosed and automatic; providing enhancements to personnel safety, increasing cycle time by a factor of five, reducing annual operating costs by

\$400K, and ensuring Y-12 can support production throughput rates for items manufactured with this new capability.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Paul Krumpe, NA-122.21, 202-586-2731.

Event: B83 Flight Test Cancellation: Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) implemented a voluntary explosives stand down for all facilities involving explosives since the B61 rocket rail test incident last year, which led to an injury. Included in the stand down is the Tonopah Test Range. Due to the complexity and involvement of range personnel to address the internal SNL readiness assessment to bring the range up to operational status, a decision was made to cancel the upcoming B83-1, Joint Test Assembly flight test. **Media Interest:** None.

POC: Ron Dobbs, NA-122.24, 505-845-4428.

Event: Collaboration with Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) and SNL on Magnetic Coupled Stronglink: KCP Non-Nuclear Readiness (NNR) Program is funding an effort to collaborate with the United Kingdom's AWE and SNL on the design of a new Magnetic Coupled Stronglink (MCSL). Attending the kickoff design review at Sandia were ten engineers from the AWE, who will be collaborating on the design and prototype build with KCP and SNL. The plan is to design a stronglink that can operate in environments for multiple weapon systems. This collaboration will enhance the design process by including experienced AWE and KCP engineers at the earliest phase of the design and will result in improved manufacturability.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Lew Steinhoff, NA-122.3, 202-586-6303, Kent Davis, KCSO, 816-997-3716, and David Prigel, KCP, 816-997-4894.

Event: Milestone Achieved for Ceramic Fabrication and Testing Capabilities: The Advanced Design and Production Technologies (ADAPT) Program funded an effort to improve the lamination behavior of ceramic tape for multi-layer ceramic capacitors fabricated at KCP. KCP, working with the Missouri University of Science and Technology, used Dynamic Mechanical Thermal Analysis to study the relationship between precursor formulation and mechanical properties of ceramic tape. The results showed the previous precursor formulation yielded tape with an undesirably low strain value. Modifications to the precursor formulation were implemented to increase the strain achieved with current lamination parameters and to ultimately improve capacitor quality. This project supports the transformation initiative in the Nuclear Security Enterprise to develop improved processes required for future systems.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Lew Steinhoff, NA-122.3, 202-586-6303, Kent Davis, KCSO, 816-997-3716, and David Prigel, KCP, 816-997-4894.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

The Livermore Site Office hopes to issue a joint press release next week with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding resolution of fines imposed by EPA for the restart of groundwater and soil treatment units at LLNL.

POC: Mike Brown, AMES, 925-423-7061.

On March 4, Frank Munger, *Knoxville News*, inquired about the shipment of Perma-Fix waste to NTS low-level waste facility.

POC: Darwin Morgan, NSO, 702-295-3521.

On March 4, Keith Rogers, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, called about: status of the Nevada Site Office's (NSO) corrective action plan to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board January 2008, letter on the Device Assembly Facility Fire Suppression system and, work hours for firefighters at NTS.

POC: Darwin Morgan, NSO, 702-295-3521.

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Patricia A. Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, does not have any travel or leave plans for the week beginning March 16, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

OE Discuss Reliability Survivability Resiliency (RSR) Project. On March 3-5, OE staff met with representatives from iMET Laboratories in Stockdale, AZ. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss scientific processes to support OE's RSR Project. The RSR effort applies scientific analysis applications as a viable alternative to more expensive and resource intensive methods, potentially saving the Federal Government hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Stewart Cedres, 586-2066 and Kenneth Friedman, 586-0379

OE Attends Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) Meeting. On March 4, OE attended a meeting hosted by the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) in Washington, DC. RETAC, is an industry advisory group to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Surface Transportation Board, discussed the difficulty of rail capacity planning during a recession and the uncertainties about the future of coal. Topics covered included: capacity planning, performance measures, best practices, communications, rail rates, and transportation legislation.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Stewart Cedres, 586-2066

OE Attends NPRA Security Conference. During the week of March 9, ISER Deputy Assistant Secretary Bill Bryan spoke at the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association's annual security conference. DAS Bryan highlighted DOE's focus on cyber and infrastructure security, as well as the need for a cooperative voluntary partnership. In addition, he articulated his vision for DOE to serve as the governmental lead/information broker for the energy industry, coordinating with the rest of the Federal government to meet the demands for information.

Media Interest: None (closed meeting).

Program Contact: Carissa Vandermeij, 586-0460

ISER Participates in National Level Exercise (NLE) 2009. On March 12, ISER represented DOE in a preparatory exercise for NLE sponsored by DHS Infrastructure Protection (IP). The exercise focused on Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) community incident management operations capabilities and processes. The exercise was intended to validate critical IP roles and responsibilities, refine processes

and procedures, and test information sharing capabilities supporting terrorism prevention and border security. The exercise featured a series of briefs given by CIKR public and private sector partners for by Q&A sessions. The ISER presentation focused on information sharing and response activities that typically involve our Emergency Support Function 12 (ESF-12) activations and how these actions could be utilized given a terrorist threat scenario.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: John McIlvain 586-9267, Kenneth Friedman, 586-0379

OE Hosts Meeting on Energy Workforce Education and Training. On March 12, OE met with representatives of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the DOE Office of Science (SC), and the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) to exchange information on programs that have been successful and could be emulated more broadly in support of energy workforce training. NSF discussed their Research Experience for Teachers in Energy Program and the Research Experiences for Undergraduates, and SC discussed their program for National Laboratory Undergraduate Research Internships. NSF also provided a copy of their recently released solicitation seeking proposals for university engineering research centers, including a center for Energy Systems for a Sustainable Future. OE expects to meet again with NSF for further discussions on establishing engineering research centers.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Phil Overholt, 586-8110, Gil Bindewald, 586-0635

Visualization and Modeling Working Group Mexico Cross-Border Exercise. On March 13, Dr. Kenneth Friedman and Michael Smith led an exercise to test the capabilities of five DOE national laboratories to model, analyze and visualize a Mexico cross-border electricity scenario. The scenario developed by Los Alamos National Laboratory and supported by Sandia, Argonne, Oak Ridge and the National Energy Technology Laboratory focused on electricity supply and delivery between the U.S. and Mexico. Representatives from the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies participated in the meeting. The debrief in the DOE Emergency Operations Center was followed by a discussion of lessons learned. OE ISER will have a workshop with national laboratories at Los Alamos that will focus national laboratory international modeling and visualization capabilities.

Media Interest: None

Program Contacts: Kenneth Friedman 586-0379, Michael Smith 586-8710

DOE Presentation to WECC on Interconnection-Level Analysis and Planning. An OE staff member attended a meeting of the Western Electricity Coordination Council to brief them on DOE plans to provide financial and policy support for systematic analysis of future transmission requirements to support increased renewables and be relevant to a wide range of alternative futures.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: David Meyer, 586-3118

ITC Not Hampered by Usual Transmission Impediments. OE staff met with John Jipping, COO, ITC Holdings Corporation to discuss their proposed Green Power Express Transmission Project designed to move renewable power from the wind-rich northern plains to the Chicago area. ITC anticipates no problems with Federal, Tribal, State or local siting or permitting issues. To the contrary, they state that Tribes and municipalities are asking how soon the project can be built to support local construction of renewable generation. ITC also states that financing is not a problem and they are being favorably received by the MISO and PJM regional planning processes. ITC's major impediment is resolving cost allocation issues with the States and FERC. OE offered assistance with the coordination of siting or permitting issues. Based on the most optimistic timeline, ITC states that they may energize the project in 2020.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: John Schnagl, 586-1056

General Electric (GE) Finds Way to Reduce Cost of Ceramic Matrix Composite (MI-CMC) Components. As part of their research and development project to develop MI-CMC gas turbine shrouds, GE has been investigating new fabrication techniques and processes. Recently, GE showed that using a "hybrid" structure is a viable way to reduce the cost of the shroud. The hybrid material is produced by combining CMC material with layers of a monolithic silicon carbide and silicon matrix. The viability of the hybrid was demonstrated in recent ballistic tests (a ball is fired at a plate of material) at GE's Global Research Center. Fabrication and process improvements are necessary to reduce the costs of the shroud components and to improve overall process yields, thereby further reducing costs and ensuring that shroud components are free of processing defects that may limit component life below the desired 48,000 hours.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Merrill Smith, 586-3646

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (14-day advance)

Nothing to Report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to Report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to Report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to Report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to Report

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to Report.

II. Department News

OMB/EPA/DOE Meeting on the MY 2011 CAFE Standard: Deputy Assistant Secretary Carmen Difiglio represented DOE at an OMB-hosted meeting on the forthcoming final rule to set CAFE standards for model year (MY) 2011. DOT responded to written comments provided by DOE and EPA. DOE and EPA concurred with DOT's responses to each agency's comments except for DOT's approach to calculating the social value of reducing CO₂ emissions. A meeting summary that outlines this issue is available from Carmen Difiglio. The revised draft final rule will be sent to OMB as early as Friday, March 13.

Contact: Carmen Difiglio, 6-8436

Media Interest: None

Japan – Expanding R&D Cooperation: The Office of Policy and International Affairs (PI) continues to support meetings with Japanese experts visiting the Department to push forward the proposal of Prime Minister Aso to significantly increase joint research and development. PI met with a delegation in Washington to discuss more specific proposals for cooperation on one of the items listed in that proposal, “new generation vehicles diffusion.” It was agreed that opportunities exist to expand cooperation on hybrid and electric vehicle technologies. The Japanese are also proposing joint R&D on next generation batteries, an area discussed by Minister Nikai and Secretary Chu in their telephone call. A second meeting was hosted with representatives of the Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP). This group was seeking information on DOE petroleum technology sharing policies with foreign countries. The Japanese embassy has informed us that it is organizing a third visit by Japanese scientists to DOE laboratories in the near future. This visit will focus on carbon capture and storage technologies. They also informed us that Minister Nikai is considering visiting Washington to meet with Secretary Chu May 5-7, 2009.

Contact: Kay Thompson, 6-7997

Media Interest: None

III. Upcoming Events of Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

No noteworthy upcoming events.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to Report.

V. Press Inquiries
Nothing to Report.

VI. FOIA Requests
Nothing to Report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications
Nothing to Report.

**OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

The Acting Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Christopher Kouts will be on official travel in Las Vegas, NV, March 16 - 19, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

The Yucca Mountain Project donated more than 200 computers, laptops, and flat-screen monitors to five rural Nevada school districts; Churchill, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine, Counties. By executive order, government agencies give highest preferences to schools and nonprofit organizations in the transfer, through gift or donation, of educationally useful Federal equipment.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Allen Benson, 702-794-1322

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Patricia Daddona, *TheDay.com*, Keith Rogers, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, and *KVVU, Fox 5 and KTNV, Channel 13* called for comment on Secretary Chu's March 5 remarks at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. They were referred to DOE Headquarters Office of Public Affairs.

Tony Illia, *Engineering News-Record*, called with questions regarding the program's status.

Dan Charles, *Science Magazine*, called with questions regarding program expenditures.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Allen Benson, 702-794-1322

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF SCIENCE
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Dr. Patricia M. Dehmer, Acting Director, Office Science, has no travel or leave plans for the upcoming week.

II. Departmental News

Eric Isaacs Named Director of Argonne National Laboratory: Dr. Eric D. Isaacs, a prominent University of Chicago physicist and senior administrator at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, has been selected to become the next director of Argonne. The appointment will be effective May 1, 2009. University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer made the announcement on March 11, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of UChicago Argonne, LLC, which operates Argonne for the Department of Energy. The university has managed Argonne for the United States government since 1946. On March 10, Energy Secretary Steven Chu met with Isaacs and Zimmer in his office in Washington, D.C., and supported Isaacs' candidacy.

Isaacs' selection was made following a national search for a replacement for current Argonne Director Robert Rosner, who previously indicated that he planned to step down at the end of his current term. Rosner will return to his duties as the William E. Wrather Distinguished Service Professor in Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago. Isaacs currently serves as Argonne's deputy laboratory director for programs, with responsibility for leading the laboratory's strategic planning process and overseeing the laboratory-directed research and development program, as well as its educational programs. Prior to that, he was director of the Center for Nanoscale Materials at Argonne.

Media Interest: Yes.

Program Contacts: Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Acting SC-1, 202-586-5430; Ron Lutha, ASO, 630-252-2366

Acting Office of Science Director Dehmer Addresses American Society for Engineering Education: On March 9, Acting Director of the DOE Office of Science Dr. Patricia Dehmer addressed the 2009 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Engineering Research Council (ERC) Annual Conference on Engineering R&D. Dr. Dehmer's presentation was about "Research Opportunities in DOE's Office of Science." The ASEE ERC's mission is to support and enhance research in engineering, technology, computing and applied science in educational organizations; its annual conference enables engineering deans, department chairs and faculty to hear from the leaders of Federal funding agencies and research funding advocacy groups to learn first hand about the changes they will be facing and the engineering community can adapt to

maintain active and productive University research programs. (Dr. Dehmer's ASEE ERC presentation is accessible at http://www.science.doe.gov/SC-2/Deputy_Director-speeches-presentations.htm)

Media Interest: Yes.

Program Contacts: Dr. Patricia Dehmer, Acting SC-1, 202-586-5430

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Kenneth E. Legg, Administrator –

The Administrator will be on annual leave March 19-25.

Acting Administrator (Jan. – March): Leon Jourolmon, 706-213-3835

II. Departmental News

CORPS/SEPA Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Meeting: Staff from both the Corps of Engineers and Southeastern will meet at Southeastern's headquarters in Elberton, GA, on March 17. The purpose of the meeting is to review the first draft of the GA-AL-SC System O&M and Capitalized 2008 Actual and Out-Year Projections (2009-2013). After the data is finalized, it will be presented to the preference customers at the annual SeFPC, Inc. O&M Subcommittee meeting scheduled for April 27, in Atlanta, GA.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Nancy Hill, 706-213-3841

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule - Jon Worthington, Administrator

II. Key Departmental News

The **Regional Southwestern Hydropower Committee Meeting** has been tentatively scheduled for March 24-25, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Southwestern Region Corps Districts and Divisions will meet with Southwestern to prioritize non-routine maintenance items to be considered for FY 2009 customer funding.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: George Robbins, 918-595-6680

Southwestern Power Administration and the Corps Southwestern Division will meet on March 20, to discuss Corps/Southwestern partnership projects and the associated successes. The meeting will also address areas where more work is needed to continue the partnership between the Corps and Southwestern to meet common goals (Direct Funding, calculation of the impacts to hydropower due to water storage reallocations, Corps hydropower work included in the Economic Stimulus Act, and advocating hydropower as a renewable resource).

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Marshall Boyken, 918-595-6646

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 13, 2009

I. Schedule

Schedule for Administrator - Timothy J. Meeks

March 16 Annual leave (p.m. only)

March 17-18 Operations & Maintenance Meeting, Montrose, CO

April 1-3 Annual leave

(Acting: Tony Montoya)

II. Departmental News

California Department of Water Resources Releases Snow Pack Survey Results.

The California Department of Water Resources announced the results of its third snow pack survey on March 2. Although the recent series of storms added to the state's snow pack, California remains locked in significantly below normal water conditions (i.e., drought) for the third consecutive year. Overall, the statewide average water content of the snowpack is 80 percent of average. Last year at this time, the overall snow pack was 114 percent of normal, but when the driest spring on record followed, the state ended up with the second consecutive year of an ongoing drought. Coupled with low reservoir storage levels from last year's drought conditions, water and power operations are anticipated to be extremely challenging for the upcoming spring, summer, and fall operating season.

Media Interest: Trade and local media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

Boulder Canyon Project Proposed Rate Adjustment Public Process Begins. On February 2, Western published a *Federal Register* Notice announcing a proposed adjustment to the Boulder Canyon Project base charge and rates for FY2010. The projected increase in the Boulder Canyon Project composite rate would be approximately seven percent more than the existing rate for FY09. The primary reasons for the increase in the composite rate are increased operating costs and projected decrease in energy sales due to drought conditions which result in lower than normal levels in Lake Mead. Western held an informal customer meeting with the Boulder Canyon Project customers on March 11, 2009, to disclose projected rate adjustment information to the customers and provide an opportunity for customer feedback. A public information forum, which allows the customers and interested parties to ask questions and provide comments which will become part of the official record, will be held on April 1, 2009. A public comment forum is scheduled for April 22, 2009. The public comment period will close on May 4.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

Western Establishes External Blog for Transmission Infrastructure Program. In the interest of presenting public information, receiving public comment, and answering questions regarding Western's new Transmission Infrastructure Program and borrowing authority, Western has established WebLog (blog) at an external hosting location. Using an offsite server reduces the risk of attack on Western's network resources. Even though the blog server is located in Utah, it will appear to be on Western's wapa.gov domain at <http://blog.wapa.gov/>.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

This week, Western staff continued to respond to a regional media inquiry about transmission for wind energy in South Dakota.

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

DOE WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

March 20, 2009

The following program offices did not submit a Weekly Report for this time period:

All Program Offices Reported

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

March 23 – 24: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator Steve Wright will be on annual leave. Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok will be acting.

April 6: The Administrator will speak to a National Smart Grid Conference in Spokane, Washington. United States Senator Maria Cantwell is headlining the conference.

April 8: The Administrator will appear on a panel with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Administrator Timothy Meeks at a joint meeting in San Diego, California, of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Board. The panel will discuss how BPA and WAPA will use Treasury borrowing authority provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Deputy Administrator will be acting.

II. Departmental News
Nothing to report.

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)
Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables
Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries
Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Fire Information: On March 12, John R. Tait, an attorney in Lewiston, Idaho, requested records related to a fire in July, 2008, in Nez Perce County, Idaho.

Study of Past Variable Rates: On March 13, Dustin Till of Martin Law Group in Seattle, Washington, requested a BPA study that evaluated whether the variable rate charged to Direct Service Industry customers had recovered, on average, BPA's Industrial Firm Power rate between 1986 and 1996.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Steve Isakowitz has no leave or travel planned for the week of March 23, 2009.

II. Departmental News

iManage iPortal: A demonstration with notional data was created for a potential Recovery Act Dashboard that could be used by managers on the iPortal. CFO is currently evaluating feedback and working with the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation (PA&E) to look at additional ways to provide Recovery Act managers with effective reports and dashboards to facilitate the management of the Recovery Act projects. Initial weekly reports for Recovery.gov were provided on time and sent to Energy.gov/Recovery and Recovery.gov. The data requirements analysis for the subsequent reports due in May is currently underway and on schedule.

Media Interest: No

Program Contacts: Lajos Grof-Tisza, (301) 903-1798

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcement, and Publications

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report.

II. Departmental News

Congressional Hearings:

On March 24, Steve Chalk, Acting EERE-1, will testify before the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment regarding federal vehicle technology R&D programs.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

On March 25, Howard Gruenspecht, Acting EI-1, will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy regarding legislation on Energy Market Transparency.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Kathy Peery, 202-586-2794

On March 26, David Rodgers, EE-10, will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding legislation on Industrial Manufacturing Efficiency.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

Congressional Site Visits and Events:

On March 27, Representative Lincoln Davis (D-TN) will visit Y-12 and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests
Nothing to report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

The Acting Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Annie Whatley will be in the office the week of March 23, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

7th Congressional District Business Procurement Summit -Congressman Joe Sestak will convene the 7th Congressional District Business Procurement Summit, on March 27, 2009, in Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. ED will provide informational materials to the Summit on "Doing Business with DOE," in order to assist the attendees in marketing to DOE and its contractors.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Brenda DeGraffenreid, 586-4620

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to Report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule for Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Steve Chalk

Steve Chalk has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

II. Departmental News

President Obama Announces DOE Vehicle Funding, March 19. While visiting Southern California Edison's Electric Vehicle Center in Pomona, CA, President Obama announced the release of two competitive solicitations for up to \$2 billion for advanced battery manufacturing grants, as well as \$400 million in funding for transportation electrification demonstration and deployment projects. These projects are funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will help meet the President's goal of putting one million plug-in hybrid vehicles on the road by 2015.

Media Interest: National and Trade press

Program Contact: Patrick Davis, 202-586-8061

DOE Secretary Chu and OWIP Program Manager Help Weatherize Home, Milwaukee, WI, March 13. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Weatherization Program Manager Gil Sperling, participated in weatherizing a home in Milwaukee, WI on March 13. State and local officials also participated.

Media Interest: Local press

Program Contact: Gil Sperling, 202-287-1644

NREL Director Testifies at Senate Committee Hearing, Washington, DC, March 17. National Renewable Energy Laboratory Director Dan Arvizu testified before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on March 17, at an oversight hearing on energy development on public lands and the outer continental shelf. Dr. Arvizu's testimony focused on the renewable energy resource on public lands. Other witnesses included: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Phil Moeller; Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources for the State of New Mexico Joanna Prukop.

Media Interest: Trade press

Program Contact: Christopher Powers, 303-275-4742

Biomass 2009 Conference: Fueling Our Future, National Harbor, MD, March 17-18. The Biomass Program held the Biomass 2009 Conference "Fueling Our Future" in National Harbor, MD, March 17-18. The annual conference explored the future role of biofuels in our Nation's energy portfolio and the technology, market, and policy advances needed to move toward energy independence and meet aggressive biofuels targets. A

diverse audience, including technical, business, and policy experts, participated in the event. Topics included feedstocks resource availability, collaborative international activities, and federal government financial support.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Shabnam Fardanesh, 202-586-7011

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

VI. FOIA Requests

Date received: March 16, 2009

Requester: John Greenwald

Subject: Requests a copy of a 1968 Environmental Impact Assessment between DOE and NASA.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

**ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report

II. Departmental News

Nothing to report

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearing: Acting Administrator Howard Gruenspecht will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy on March 25, to discuss Chairman Bingaman's draft legislation entitled the "Energy Market Transparency Act of 2009," which proposes data collection on oil and natural gas inventories and an interagency Working Group to examine the interactions of financial and physical energy markets.

Media Interest: Some

Program Contact: Erik Rasmussen, EI-4, 586-2762

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will be in Washington, DC, during the week of March 23-27, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

Office of Environmental Management (EM) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Activities

EM Receives Apportionment for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds: EM received apportionment of ARRA funds on March 13, 2009, after successfully briefing the Office of Management and Budget on the management, reporting, and oversight systems that are in place for EM's ARRA projects.

Media Interest: High

Program Contact: Merle Sykes, 202-586-8754

EM Briefs Representatives of Unions on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): On March 11, 2009, Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay and EM ARRA Project Director, Cynthia Anderson, briefed the representatives of unions on EM's principles and priorities for implementing the ARRA. Matthew Rogers, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy for Recovery Act Spending gave opening remarks. Time was allotted for questions and answers prior to adjourning.

Media Interest: Low

Program Contact: 202-586-2083

EM Briefs Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Groups on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): On March 11, 2009, Acting Assistant Secretary Inés Triay and EM ARRA Project Director Cynthia Anderson briefed the Combined Intergovernmental Working Group (CIWG) and other stakeholder groups via teleconference on EM's principles and priorities for implementing the ARRA. The CIWG consists of the Energy Community Alliance, the National Governors Association, the Environmental Council of the States, National Association of Attorneys General, National Conference of State Legislatures, and the State and Tribal Government Working Group. Also represented on the call were members of the EM Advisory Board and groups from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability.

Media Interest: Trade Press

Program Contact: Melissa Nielson, 202-586-0356

Project Management Institute (PMI) 2008 Project of the Year Finalist – U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection (ORP) Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Borehole Project: The WTP Borehole Project was selected as a finalist for the PMI 2008 Project of the Year, which recognizes the accomplishments of a project and the involved project team for superior performance and execution of exemplary project management. In early 2006, work at the WTP Project was stopped at the Pretreatment (PT) and High-Level Waste (HLW) Facilities when Congress determined there was insufficient seismic data. In mid 2006, the WTP Borehole Project began collecting seismic data to determine if the design basis seismic criteria met revised ground motion (RGM) criteria. Drilling activities were completed in late 2006, and borehole data was provided to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) for analysis. In June 2007, PNNL confirmed that the newly developed seismic amplifications were significantly lower than the current design basis RGM, making the current seismic criteria and facility designs conservative and bounding. The Secretary of Energy signed the letter of Certification of the Final Seismic Criteria on August 10, 2007, removing the congressional restriction, clearing the way for construction to resume.

Media Interest: Medium

Program Contact: John R. Eschenberg, 509-376-3681

Waste Processing Pilot Plant (WIPP) Ten-year Anniversary of First Waste Receipt:

March 26, 2009, will mark the 10-year anniversary of the first waste receipt and disposal at the WIPP site. WIPP staff is participating in radio talk shows along the New Mexico shipping corridor to inform stakeholders of the many accomplishments WIPP has achieved in 10 years of operation and to thank local communities for their support. WIPP hosted a facility tour for NM media (newspapers) on March 16, 2009. WIPP-related articles are expected in a number of NM newspapers next week.

Media Interest: Moderate

Program Contact: Lauren Milone, 202-586-2932 / Roger Nelson, 575-234-7213

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest

Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary Der

No travel or speaking engagements to report through April 10.

II. Key Departmental News

Members of Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee to Meet with Secretary Chu.

On March 25, 2009, four members of the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee will meet with Secretary Chu to discuss the progress and potential of the DOE's Methane Hydrate R&D program. The Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the Secretary of Energy and was created in response to provisions of the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 and reauthorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The members intend to discuss the potential benefits to the United States of developing technology to produce methane from hydrate, a large new source of clean-burning natural gas, and the progress that the DOE-led R&D has made. The members will also relay their continued support for Fossil Energy's Oil and Natural Gas Program.

Program Contact: Edith Allison, 202/586-1023

Plains CO₂ Reduction (PCOR) Partnership Begins Injection Phase for North Dakota Project. Member organizations of the PCOR Partnership have begun injecting CO₂ into a deep lignite coal seam in Burke County, ND, to demonstrate the economic and environmental viability of geologic CO₂ storage in the U.S. Great Plains region. Previous characterization activities suggest the region's low-rank coal seams could store up to 8 billion tons of CO₂ while releasing more than 17 trillion cubic feet of methane. The first to focus on lignite coals, the demonstration will provide previously unavailable insights broadly applicable not only within the region but throughout western North America where low-rank coal seams are known to occur. Managed by the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center in cooperation with NETL, the PCOR Partnership includes more than 80 public and private partners in nine states (ND, SD, MN, MT, WY, NE, IA, MO, and WI) as well as four Canadian provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba).

Program Contact: Andrea McNemar, 304/285-2024

Mercury Removal Invention Patented. U.S. patent 7,494,632 for the removal of elemental mercury from flue gas streams utilizing a layer of activated carbon particles contained within the fabric material of baghouse filters, has been assigned to the U.S. Government as represented by the U.S. Department of Energy. The novel apparatus and process is readily adaptable to any gas treatment system that already employs a bag house for particulate control. In principle, other sorbent materials can be incorporated into the

fabric, not only for mercury capture, but also for mercury oxidation in situations where a downstream wet scrubber is available. The concept also applies for mercury capture from syngas when the sorbent and supporting fabric material are compatible with the syngas composition and temperature.

Program Contact: Edgar Klunder, 412/386-4678

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (14-day advance)

None

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

None

V. Press Inquiries

None

VI. FOIA Requests

None

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

None

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

No leave or travel plans.

II. Departmental News

AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING DEFENDANTS FILED IN ROCKY FLATS CASE

Cook v. Rockwell International Corp. (10th Cir.). The Nuclear Energy Institute, Inc. filed an amicus brief supporting the defendants. This is a class action tort suit against DOE's former contractors at Rocky Flats brought on behalf of local property owners who allege that releases of radioactive materials diminished their property values. A jury rendered a verdict for the property-owner class in February, 2006, finding the defendants liable for trespass and nuisance, and the district court subsequently issued a Final Judgment pursuant to Rule 54(b), Fed. R. Civ. P. against the defendants in the amount of \$926.1 million (inclusive of pre-judgment interest). The district court previously stayed the judgment without bond until the appeal process is completed. (A. Fingeret, GC-31, 586-5678)

TRIAL DATE SET IN ELK HILLS CASE

Chevron U.S.A. v. United States (Fed. Cl.). The court set October 13, 2009, as the trial date on the liability issue in this case. In this action Chevron alleges that the Department of Energy has breached a May 1997 agreement concerning the determination of the final equity shares of DOE and Chevron Texaco in the Elk Hills Field, an oil and gas producing property. (P. Michael, GC-31, 586-1303 and A. Mitrani, GC-31, 586-5550)

DISTRICT COURT GRANTS PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

Save Strawberry Canyon v. DOE (N. D. Cal.). The court granted the plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction, finding that the plaintiff has raised serious questions concerning whether the University of California's proposed Computational Research and Theory Project is "subject to federal control or responsibility" and that there is substantial evidence that DOE has contemplated relocating its computer facilities to the facility. The court issued a limited preliminary injunction enjoining defendants from entering into any contract or undertaking any land-disturbing actions pending a ruling on the merits. This is an action by a local citizens' group asserting that DOE failed to prepare appropriate NEPA analysis for the proposed project, to be constructed by the University of California at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory site. (M. Franklin, GC-31, 586-5982, and J. Masters, GC-31, 586-3415)

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

- I. Schedule**
Nothing to report in this area.

- II. Key Departmental News**
Nothing to report in this area.
- III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)**
Nothing to report in this area.
- IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**
Nothing to report in this area.
- V. Press Inquiries**
Nothing to report in this area.

- VI. FOIA Requests**
Nothing to report in this area.
- VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**
Nothing to report in this area.

**OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Departmental News

Cases Received: The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received a request by an individual requesting that a hearing be conducted under 10 CFR Part 710 to determine his eligibility to hold a DOE security clearance.

Hearings Conducted:
No hearings were conducted during this period.

Decisions Issued:

Appeal

On March 17, 2009, OHA issued a decision denying a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal filed by the Environmental Defense Institute (EDI). EDI had filed a FOIA request with the DOE Idaho Operations Office (Idaho) for documents referring to the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) that were referenced in DOE/Idaho National Laboratory (INL) ACertification Report No. 29. Idaho released a number of documents to EDI in full, but withheld portions of two documents relying on FOIA Exemptions 2 and 3. In addition, Idaho released a single page each from two other documents, and withheld the remainder. EDI challenged these withholdings. In considering EDI's Appeal, OHA found that Idaho properly withheld the redacted information under Exemption 2. OHA also found that Idaho properly released only single pages of two documents since it was the only information within the documents responsive to EDI's request. Finally, OHA found that although Idaho improperly relied on the Atomic Energy Act to withhold information under Exemption 3, since it was not classified or identified as Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information, the information was properly withheld under Exemption 2. OHA Case No. TFA-0295 (Janet Fishman, 287-1579)

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

EEOC MD-715 Report:

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has received concurrence from the Office of General Counsel for its draft FY2008 Federal Agency Annual EEO Program Status Report (EEOC MD-715 Report). OCR is awaiting concurrence from the Office of Human Capital Management, and anticipates submitting the report to the EEOC by March 31, 2009.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Title IX Compliance Review:

OCR staff is currently conducting an on-site Title IX compliance review at North

Carolina State University. DOE employees from OCR, OHA, and various field offices are participating in the Title IX compliance review, which is focusing on the University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act Seminar:

On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, OCR will host a seminar on the new Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act. The speaker for the seminar will be Christopher Kuczynski, Assistant Legal Counsel for EEOC's ADA Policy Division. Representatives from the Office of Human Capital Management, the Office of General Counsel, NNSA, DOE field EEO/Diversity Managers, and others have been invited to participate.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

No FEAR Act Report to Congress:

On March 19, 2009, OCR submitted its "FY 2008 Report of the US Department of Energy Pursuant to OPM Regulation 5 CFR Section 724.302, No FEAR Act." As required by law, the Report was submitted to a number of members of Congress, as well as the Acting Chairman of EEOC, the Attorney General, the Acting Director of OPM, and other government officials.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Title VI/Title IX Compliance Desk Audit Procedures:

OCR completed a draft of its "Title VI/Title IX Compliance Desk Audit Procedures." The procedures will be used to conduct desk audits of recipients of DOE federal financial assistance. Following final approval, the procedures will be implemented by the OCR in conducting Title VI and Title IX desk audit reviews.

Contact: Sharon Wyatt, x6-2256

Executive Order 13160 Procedures:

OCR completed its procedures for processing complaints of discrimination pursuant to Executive Order 13160 ("Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Race, Sex, Color, National Origin, Disability, Religion, Age, Sexual Orientation, and Status as a Parent in Federally Conducted Education and Training Programs"). Following final approval, the procedures will be implemented by OCR.

Contact: Sharon Wyatt, x6-2256

Media Interest: No

DOE Contact: Bill Lewis, bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov, 6-6530

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on IPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule: Glenn S. Podonsky, Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer

March 17: Recognized members of the Green Computing and Green Building Teams for their efforts in enabling the Department to achieve a “green” score on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Environmental Stewardship Scorecard. Representatives from DOE Headquarters and program offices attended. The Acting Deputy Chief for Operations accompanied.

March 30: Provide keynote address at the annual United Steelworkers (USW) / Queens College of the City University of New York (Queens College) Former Worker Medical Screening Program meeting. (See below for additional details.)

Schedule: William A. Eckroade, Acting Deputy Chief for Operations

See Chief’s schedule.

II. Departmental News

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Personally Identifiable Information (PII): As a result of the loss of a computer disk containing PII, HSS has taken the following steps: 1) ordered a stand down for all sites supporting both the Former Worker Program (FWP) and Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) programs; 2) conduct of an investigation to identify the nature and circumstances of the incident, the adequacy of FWP and DOE EEOICPA procedures for protecting the substantial volumes of privacy information they are entrusted with, how the data is protected when transmitted to NIOSH and Department of Labor (DOL), the level of risks associated with management of the privacy information by these programs, and the timeliness and accuracy of the incident reporting; 3) notified the Idaho Governors Office, Congressional offices of the Idaho delegation, and Congressional committees; 4) coordinated with DOL and NIOSH to minimize the impact of the shutdown; and 5) commenced notification of all current and former INL workers, offering them free credit monitoring and providing a toll free phone number for additional information.

Management Impact: The results of the investigation will be used to revise methods used to protect sensitive information such as PII.

Media Interest: The press release was picked-up in local Idaho news last week. The stand down of the FWP was picked-up in Oak Ridge local news this week.

Program Contact: Glenn S. Podonsky, (301) 903-3777

Pantex Security Enforcement Program Review: HSS is scheduled to conduct a Security Enforcement Program Review at Pantex next week (March 24-26) to evaluate the classified information security program elements that support the Babcock & Wilcox Pantex classified information security regulatory program.

Management Impact: This activity supports the Department's commitment to enforce classified information security regulations.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Security Awareness Special Interest Group (SASIG) Annual Workshop: HSS is scheduled to host the annual SASIG workshop at the Nevada Site Office March 31-April 1. Average attendance at the annual workshop is approximately 65 to 70 individuals.

Management Impact: The workshop provides an opportunity to share lessons learned, highlight new security initiatives, and promote uniformity in the implementation of security awareness programs resulting in improvements in program efficiency and effectiveness.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Safety Advisory: This week (March 17), HSS issued a DOE Safety Advisory recommending DOE sites discontinue use of ammunition from a specific supplier due to the rounds breaking apart in weapons before firing. An investigation has been initiated to determine whether the ammunition is suspect or counterfeit. The supplier has been requested to respond within 15 days with an explanation of the cause and a plan to prevent reoccurrence.

Management Impact: A public Government-Industry Data Exchange Program safety alert may be issued depending on the supplier's response.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Meeting: HSS is scheduled to participate in an IAEA meeting in Vienna, Austria, March 30 - April 3, to lead a project working team in the development of a comparison between the IAEA GS-R-3, *The Management System for Facilities and Activities* and ASME NQA-1-2008, *Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications*.

Management Impact: This effort will assist DOE programs that use services and vendors from other countries by identifying gaps in quality assurance processes that need to be addressed.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Annual United Steelworkers (USW)/Queens College of the City University of New York (Queens College) Meeting: HSS is scheduled to participate in the USW/Queens College annual meeting in Washington, DC, March 30. Discussions will include progress and future planning of projects conducted for former workers from the Idaho, Oak Ridge, and Brookhaven National Laboratories (INL, ORNL, and BNL), the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), the Mound and Fernald sites, and the Portsmouth, Paducah, and K-25 gaseous diffusion plants (GDP).

Management Impact: The Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer is scheduled to provide the key note address at the meeting.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

BioSurety Policy: HSS, in coordination with the BioSurety Executive Team chaired by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and consisting of representatives from the Office of Science (SC), the Office of General Counsel (GC), and the Office of the Deputy Secretary (DS), anticipates providing a policy pertaining to biological research laboratories to the Office of Management for publication by the end of the month (March 31).

Management Impact: The new policy will communicate the Department's expectations for the approval of biological agent facilities and select agent work at DOE sites.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Other Government Agencies (OGAs) Classification/Declassification Training: A 4-day Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers course is scheduled to be conducted next week (March 16-20) for reviewers from the Army Declassification Office in Springfield, VA.

Management Impact: These activities support DOE's responsibility to assist OGAs to identify RD and FRD and prevent the inadvertent release of sensitive nuclear technologies.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Annual Report to Congress on DOE Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB): The Annual Report is being routed for final concurrence and approval.

Management Impact: The report is being prepared per Section 316(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 requiring DOE to submit an annual written report to Congress addressing the Department's DNFSB-related activities.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Independent Oversight Activities:

1. Pantex Environment, Safety and Health Inspection: Onsite planning activities were conducted this week (March 16-20). Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted March 30 – April 9.
2. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (March 23-26).
3. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Emergency Management Follow-up Appraisal: Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (March 23-26).

4. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Classification and Information Control Inspection: Onsite inspection activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (March 23-27).

Management Impact: These activities support the independent evaluation of the status of the Department's security, cyber security, emergency management, and environment, safety and health (ES&H) programs.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:

- March 18-20: One Board member attended the DOE/NNSA sponsored Nuclear Suppliers Outreach Event in Augusta, GA.
- March 19: The Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, NNSA, briefed the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- March 20: Bechtel, Inc. management provided a quarterly status update to the Board.
- March 23: Environmental Management (EM) will brief the Board on the recently established EM Technical Authority Board.
- March 24: The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- March 26: The Responsible Manager will brief the Board on Recommendation 2007-1, *Safety-related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials*, implementation plan activities.
- March 26: HSS will brief the Board on verifying implementation of specific administrative controls changes developed in response to Recommendation 2002-3, *Requirements for Design, Implementation and Maintenance of Administrative Control*, and validation of safety basis controls changes.
- March 26: HSS will brief the Board on Quality Assurance activities.

Management Impact: Information is provided to keep DOE Senior Management aware of DNFSB activities and interests.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report

II. Departmental News

Nothing to report

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Dave Geiser, Acting Director, Office of Legacy Management will be on annual leave the week of March 23.

Karl Stoeckle (202-586-7392) will be Acting Director on March 23 and March 27.

Barbara McNeal (202-586-7388) will be Acting Director on March 24-26.

II. Departmental News

Nothing to report

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Date of Request: 03/16/2009

Requester: Kimberlee Davis

Subject Matter: Copies of Contract No. DEAC0905RF02110, Support to the Rocky Flats Project Office for Classification/Declassification and Building Maintenance, with PMTech, Inc. and all contract modifications.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Departmental News

Acquisition Administration Workshop for the Office of Environmental Management: On March 10, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management supported the Office of Environmental Management (EM) in its Acquisition Administration Workshop presented to approximately 100 participants who serve as technical monitors at DOE Headquarters. Topics addressed included: Support Service Contracting, Procurement Principles, Roles and Responsibilities, EM's Standard Operating Policies and Procedures for Processing Acquisitions at Headquarters, SmartPay Purchase Cards, Simplified Acquisition Purchases, and How to Avoid a Ratification of Unauthorized Commitments.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: John Harris, (202) 287-1471

Contract Award for Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program Office: On March 11, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a contract to AOC Petroleum Support Services LLC, a small business concern, to provide technical and analytical support services to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program Office. The total amount of the contract, if all options are exercised, is \$11M with a period of performance consisting of one 36-month base period and two 12-month option periods.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Benjamin Lardizabal, (202) 287-1479

Contract Award for Nationwide Professional Skills Training Program: On March 10, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a contract to Colleague Consulting, LLC, a small business concern, to support the Nationwide Professional Skills Training Program. The total amount of the contract is \$15.1M with a period of performance through March 14, 2014.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Craig Frame, (202) 287-1463

Exercise of Contract Option for Information Technology Support Services: On March 5, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management exercised the second one-year option period of the principal Headquarters information technology support services contract to Energy Enterprise Solutions LLC (EES), a small business concern. The contract is sponsored by the Office of the Chief Information Officer and

was competitively awarded in December 2005 in accordance with Office of Management & Budget Circular A-76 to the federal Most Effective Organization. The total value of the task order, including exercised options, is \$131.5M with a period of performance through April 4, 2010.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Patrick Thornton, (202) 287-1532

Purchase of Strontium for the Office of Nuclear Energy: On March 17, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a task order to Nuclear Medicine Solutions, a small business concern, to purchase strontium and to provide medical isotopes. The total value of the task order is \$103,555.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Matthew Phelps, (202) 287-1524

Root Cause Analysis, Corrective Action Plan, Executive Steering Committee Meeting: On Tuesday, March 17, a meeting of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) was held concerning the Root Cause Analysis, Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Topics discussed included a review of meeting minutes from the previous CAP ESC Meeting, a determination on deliverables from corrective measure teams, updates of CAP metrics and implementation status from the other corrective measure organizational sponsors.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Carmelo Melendez, (202) 586-6465

Certification Review Board Meeting: The Project Manager Certification Review Board (CRB) met last Friday. The CRB granted two higher-level certifications and clarified a number of Project Management Career Development Program issues. To date, the CRB has certified 282 Federal Project Directors.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Peter J. O’Konski, (202) 586-4502

Real Property Data Validation for the Savannah River Site: The Office of Engineering and Construction Management, Facilities and Infrastructure team, assisted the Office of Environmental Management perform their yearly real property data validation at the Savannah River Site (SRS). SRS was well prepared with excellent source documentation, which made the validation go very smoothly. No discrepancies were noted on the walkthrough inspections. SRS’s Validation Scorecard was “Green” for both Buildings & Trailers and Other Structures & Facilities (OSFs).

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Monja Vadnais, (202) 586-6199

- III. **Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)**
- IV. **Progress on EPACT Deliverables**
- V. **Press Inquiries**
- VI. **FOIA Requests**
- VII. **Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

**OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary R. Shane Johnson is traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee, March 25-26, 2009, to visit the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to attend a Program Review.

II. Departmental News

Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) Approves Building Two Nuclear Reactors at Plant Vogtle Site: Georgia Power, which is owned by Southern Company, received approval on March 17, 2009, from the Georgia PSC on its plans to build two Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear power plants at its Vogtle Site near Augusta, Georgia. The public hearings regarding Georgia Power's combined application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility, Public Convenience and Necessity and for a Base Load Review Order started on January 12, 2009. As a member of the NuStart consortium, Southern Company is supported by the Nuclear Power 2010 (NP 2010) Program. This is the second utility to receive an approval from its state's PSC. The first one was the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), principal subsidiary of SCANA Corporation, which received approval on February 12, 2009. SCE&G is also a member of NuStart consortium.

Program Contact: Tansel Selekle, NE-31, 301-903-2789

Media Interest: None

Revised Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Submitted to Business Clearance: This FOA is for the completion of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 defined Phase One scope of work that includes conceptual design, research and development, and licensing activities sufficient to warrant a favorable recommendation from the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee (NEAC) to proceed into Phase Two. It is anticipated that two contracts will be awarded, and selected vendor teams will be required to provide a share of the costs.

Program Contact: Janelle Zamore, NE-33, 301-903-5501

Media Interest: None

Review of Research and Development (R&D) University Programs Proposals: March 16, 2009, 212 full proposals were submitted in response to the request for proposal (RFP) issued on February 6, 2009. An independent peer review will begin reviewing proposals on March 18, 2009, and plan to be completed by April 3, 2009. The final list of recommended proposals for award will be presented by the Center for Advanced

Energy Studies to the Acting Assistant Secretary on April 16, 2009, for final approval. Final selection is anticipated by May 1, 2009, with contracts planned to be issued by August 2009.

Program Contact: Suibel Schuppner, NE-31, 301-903-1652

Media Contact: None

Advanced Instrumentation & Controls and Human System Interfaces, Research Needs, Research Directions Workshop at the Ohio State University (OSO): The workshop was jointly sponsored by the OSU Academic Center for Excellence in Instrumentation, Control, and Safety together with the Electric Power Research Institute, the Idaho National Laboratory, and the Office of Nuclear Energy's Light Water Reactor Sustainability Program. The workshop focused on key themes behind Government and industry efforts to improve nuclear plant and operator performance specifically in the context of upgrading instrumentation and control equipment in aging plants,.

Program Contact: Dan Chalk, NE-31, 301-903-8323

Media Interest: None

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest

IV. Progress on Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

No activities to report.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

On March 20, NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino will be on leave. William Barker, NNSA's Chief of Staff, will be the acting Administrator.

On March 16-24, William Ostendorff, Principal Deputy Administrator, currently performing the duties of the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, will be on leave. Gerald Talbot, the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, will be the senior leader for the Office of Defense Programs.

On March 26-27, Ken Baker, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, will travel to Philadelphia, PA, for a radiological table top exercise and a national security forum. On March 30-April 1, Mr. Baker will travel to Vienna, Austria for the IAEA Nuclear Symposium.

II. Departmental News

Event: National Ignition Facility (NIF) Breaks One MegaJoule Barrier: On March 10, NIF became the world's first laser facility to break the one megajoule (MJ) barrier; delivering 1.1 MJ of ultraviolet energy to the center of the target chamber. The shot utilized all 192 NIF laser beams to deliver the necessary energy in an ignition pulse shape. This accomplishment, occurring less than two weeks after NIF first fired all 192 laser beams to the target chamber center, was achieved on the first attempt at delivering this amount of energy. The time between the two 192 beam shots was utilized in a series of shots with increased energy to condition the optics for exposure to this magnitude of laser energy.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Scott Samuelson, NA-123.2, 925-423-0593.

Event: First Use Demonstrated Ahead of Schedule at Y-12: In early March, NNSA successfully demonstrated "First Use" on a modern lathe required for Life Extension Program production operations. The existing manual lathe was installed in 1969 and required highly-skilled craftsman to operate it successfully. The modern lathe, supported by the Y-12 Stockpile Services Program, is enclosed and automatic. It enhances personnel safety, increases cycle time by a factor of five, reduces annual operating costs by \$400,000, and ensures Y-12 can support production throughput rates for items manufactured with this new capability.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Rick Collier, Y12-30, 865-576-9254.

Event: Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) Quality Assurance Completed an Assessment of Work Processes: LASO Office of Quality Assurance completed an assessment of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) work processes performed at the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility, Los Alamos Neutron Science Center, and the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility. The assessment focused on implementation of the LANL Lock Out/Tag Out Program. It identified: inconsistent implementation of required management reviews of existing lock-out locks. It was also identified that ownership of the program has been transferred from one Associate Director to another and corrective actions have not been completed for 14 months. This is a Category 2 significant issue.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Anita Leivo, LASO, 505-667-1021.

Event: Improved Approach for Information System Security Plans: An improved approach to generating Information System Security Plans (ISSPs) was developed to reduce cost and time associated with preparations. Many ISSPs are sponsored by Stockpile Services since they apply to systems used in production. The existing approach developed detailed plans for each application, requiring several months to prepare and approve. The new ISSP approach incorporates common elements into master documents, simplifying and reducing preparation time to 30 days. This improvement will enable more rapid refresh/deployment of production capabilities that depend on information technology.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Rick Collier, Y12-30, 865-576-9254.

Event: Milestone Achieved in Electronic Model Shop: The Advanced Design and Production Technologies Program funded an effort to improve the productivity and technology of Printed Wiring Assemblies. We achieved the goal of deriving one document with standardized fabrication requirements for all War Reserve products, with release of the specification...“Fabrication Requirements for Printed Wiring Assemblies.” As a part of the effort, the solder specification was also revised. This project supports the Nuclear Security Enterprise transformation initiative - to develop improved processes required for future systems.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Lew Steinhoff, NA-122.3, 202-586-6303, Kent Davis, KCSO, 816-997-3716, and David Prigel, KCP, 816-997-4894.

Event: Project Management Career Development Program (PMCDP) Certification Review Board (CRB) Meeting (Update): On March 13, PMCDP CRB met to evaluate proposed candidates for project management certification. One NNSA candidate was certified for Level 3 (projects between \$100 million and \$400 million in Total Project Cost) pending CRB interview. NNSA currently has 38 active projects with 28 Federal Project Directors (FPD's) managing those projects. With one exception, all incumbent FPDs are certified. NNSA has certified another 46 non-incumbent project managers (for

a total of 73 certified people) that are a qualified and ready resource for NNSA project management needs. In addition, NNSA has certified eight (8) EM Federal Project Directors who are managing projects at NNSA sites.

Media Interest: None.

POC: S.Vancil, NNSA Service Center Support to NA-54, 505-845-6408.

Event: ESAAB-E Review: On March 16, an ESAAB-E to request approval of Critical Decision (CD)-0, Mission Need, for a Pantex Wind Farm project was held. Thad Konopnicki, Associate Administrator for Infrastructure and Environment, and Acquisition Executive, approved CD-0 along with a project name change to the Pantex Renewable Energy project that will consider additional renewable alternatives for CD-1, Approve Alternative Selection, and Cost Range. Adjustments to the Mission Need Statement and related documents will also occur as part of CD-1.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Mike Reitz, NA-54 202-586-0690.

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Event: NNSA to Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kenya's Ministry of Transport: On March 26, NNSA expects to sign an MOU with the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kenya, which will allow the Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program to install radiation detection equipment and associated infrastructure at the Port of Mombasa. Under the agreement, NNSA will also train Kenyan officials from the Ministry of Transport and other agencies to operate and maintain this equipment. The Port of Mombasa links the trade corridors of the Indian Ocean, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf, and its strategic location makes it the maritime hub for countries throughout eastern and central Africa. NNSA will issue a press release; however, expected media attention is minimal.

Media Interest: Low.

POC: Tracy Mustin, NA-25, 202-586-2676.

Event: Nevada Test Site (NTS) Tours: On March 23, two Sea Reach, LTD, research writers will receive a general information tour of the NTS, to gather data for the plan they are writing for placement of the monument, *Silent Heroes of the Cold War*, at Spring Mountain, Las Vegas, NV. On March 24, participants from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Weapons of Mass Destruction Conference will receive a programmatic tour of NTS. On March 26, three British nationals, employed by the Atomic Weapons Establishment, will receive a general information tour of NTS.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Darwin Morgan, NSO, 702-295-3521.

Event: Interagency Discussions on Helium-3 (³He) Availability: A combination of reduced production and increased demand has led to a significant shortage of ³He. Therefore, on March 24, the Department of Homeland Security has arranged an Interagency meeting to assess ³He requirements and develop a path forward to allocate ³He for Homeland Security and national defense applications. NNSA is the primary

source for ^3He (a by-product of tritium decay). Demand estimates for ^3He supporting the NNSA SLD Program and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office alone could exceed the entire available supply within the next 5-7 years. ^3He is also needed by the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Justice (DOJ), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), medical diagnostics, research, and oil well logging operations. It is uniquely suited for neutron detection, so the demand for ^3He -based neutron detectors and isotope identification devices will continue to increase.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Abdul Dasti, NA-122.3, 202-586-4072.

Event: DoD and Department of Energy (DoD/DOE) Joint Nuclear Surety Executive Course (JNSEC): As directed by the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) established the Joint Nuclear Surety Executive Course (JNSEC) to provide mid- and senior-level personnel with an overview of the broad field of nuclear weapons surety. On March 25-26, this two-day course will occur at the Defense Nuclear Weapons School, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM. The JNSEC is presented in a joint format by experts from the DoD and DOE. This collection of technical, programmatic, and process information facilitates a shared understanding of nuclear weapons safety, security, and use control.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Sandra Dodd, NA-122.12, 202-586-0348.

Event: Congressman Lincoln Davis (D-TN) to Visit Y-12: On March 27, Congressman Lincoln Davis plans to visit Y-12 for tours and briefings. Congressman Davis is a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies.

Media Interest: None.

POC: Steven Wyatt, YSO, 865-576-9918.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

Event: NNSA Public Affairs: This week, Administrator Tom D'Agostino testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development on Complex Transformation. Public Affairs (PA) responded to the national, regional, and local media inquiries on the Duke Energy contract for MOX fuel, nuclear nonproliferation, and various other issues. Next week, NNSA will host a national security forum highlighting radiological security with the city of Philadelphia's leadership at the University of Pennsylvania. A press release will be issued. PA will also issue two press releases: one announcing the signing of an SLD MOU with Kenya, and another announcing the 15th Anniversary of Moroccan cooperation with the NNSA on the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Media Interest: High.

POC: Anna Awosika, NA-3.5, 202-586-7371.

Livermore Site Office Public Affairs coordinated a media interview between Todd Jacobson, *Nuclear Weapons and Materials Monitor*, and Scott Samuelson, of the Office Defense Programs, regarding the status of the National Ignition Facility.
POC: John Belluardo, LSO PA, 925-422-2567.

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Patricia A. Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary, does not have any travel or leave plans for the week beginning March 23, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

OE Briefings for Electricity Trade Associations on Implementation of Recovery Act. In recent days OE staff has provided briefings on the status of its implementation of the Recovery Act to representatives from the Edison Electric Institute and the American Public Power Association.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: David Meyer, 586-3118

Defense Production Act (DPA) Reauthorization Interagency Working Group. On March 17, Dr. Kenneth Friedman, Dr. Michael Soboroff, and Mr. Steven Porter, Assistant General for OE attended this meeting at the Federal Energy Management Agency (FEMA). Sanders L. Adu – Staff Director Domestic Monetary Policy Subcommittee had told FEMA that a hearing would be held after April 15, on reauthorization of this act which expires September 30, 2009. For the past 4 years the Congress has granted only one year extensions to the act which provides possible support for the restoration of critical infrastructures as well as for purposes of national defense. The General Accountability Organization (GAO) had issued a report in June 2008 which found that “Agencies Lack Policies and Guidance for Use of Key Authorities” under the DPA. The Energy Department was not cited in this criticism.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Kenneth Friedman, 586-0379

OE Presents at NERC CIPC Meeting. On March 18-19, Jim McGlone attended the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee (CIPC) Quarterly Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Jim provided the committee with a presentation on VERDE as well as an update on the 2009 Sector Annual Report for Energy, for which the energy industry is being asked to provide their input. Other topics addressed at the meeting included CIP initiatives, cyber vulnerability assessments, an Electricity Sector Coordinating Council and PCIS update, updates to the NIPP Energy Sector Specific Plan, security operations and planning, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 Critical Assets.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Jim McGlone, 586-1287

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (14-day advance)

National Security Challenges: Energy Conference. On March 24-25, ISER staff will serve as the moderator during Southcom's annual energy security conference in Miami, FL. The conference is being held to promote strategic dialogue, and to discuss strategies, roles, and priorities of Federal agencies/departments, as well as to foster a better understanding of common obstacles that affect the Federal government's ability to collaborate on energy security related issues, both domestically and internationally.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Carrissa VanderMey, 586-0460

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to Report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to Report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to Report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to Report

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to Report.

II. Department News

DOE Comments on the MY 2011 CAFE Standard: DOE provided comments to OMB on DOT's draft Final Rule to set model year (MY) 2011 Fuel Economy Standards. DOT must provide 18 months lead time to manufacturers before an affected model year. Therefore this rule must be issued by March 30, 2009. DOE's comments mainly concerned the draft rule's analysis identifying the social cost of CO₂ of \$2.00/ton and were very similar to comments provided by EPA. DOE's and EPA's recommendations can be easily accommodated within the time remaining to issue the rule.

Contact: Carmen Difiglio, 6-8436

Media Interest: None

U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Dialogue: Dan Utech, Senior Advisor to Secretary Chu, hosted an interagency meeting called by the White House at DOE on March 19. The Dialogue, led by Secretary Chu and Canadian Environment Minister Prentice, will have three working groups to address the areas identified by Leaders for enhanced bilateral cooperation – carbon capture and storage (CCS), electricity grid/smart grid, and clean energy R&D (including biofuels, clean engines, and energy efficiency). Mr. Utech discussed DOE's existing and potential expanded/new collaborative activities in the five areas that were identified by the Offices of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy, and Electricity. DOE will circulate its paper next week, and other agencies will provide information on their existing or potential joint projects so DOE can prepare a comprehensive USG document to be exchanged with the Canadians in early April. The first bilateral Dialogue meeting with the Canadians is tentatively planned for April, and working group meetings to identify and develop deliverables to be presented to Leaders in August will follow. PI-33 staff prepared a strategy paper, agenda, and overview summary of ongoing joint efforts and potential expanded/new initiatives for the interagency meeting, and will continue working with the program offices to finalize the paper detailing DOE's existing and proposed new projects.

Contact: Gary Ward, 6-6123; Andrea Lockwood, 6-6082

Japan: Jun Arima, Deputy Director-General for Global Environmental Affairs at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, visited the Office of Policy and International Affairs (PI) to discuss the Department's bilateral programs with China. Acting Assistant Secretary Jonathan Shrier reviewed existing programs, as well as the German backed International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). According to Arima, the Japanese government is facing considerable political pressure to join IRENA in spite

of the substantial cost and duplicative nature of the agency. Australia's Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute, of which Japan is a founding member, was also discussed.

The Japanese continue to press for meetings on various aspects of the new Administration's energy policy. PI has seven requests on meetings covering a broad range of energy policies. Most meetings are at the experts' level. However, the State Department has informed PI that Environment Minister Tetsuo Saito may visit May 2-5, 2009, and may request a meeting with the Secretary.

Contact: Kay Thompson, 6-7997

Media Interest: None

III. Upcoming Events of Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

No noteworthy upcoming events.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to Report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to Report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to Report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to Report.

**OFFICE OF CIVILIAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

The Acting Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Christopher Kouts, has no travel or leave planned the week of March 23, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

Nothing to report

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Steve Tetreault, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, asked for comment on legislation submitted by Senators Reid and Ensign to establish a National Commission on High-Level Radioactive Waste. An Office of Public Affairs representative provided the Department's comments.

Peter Quynne, *Physics World Magazine*, called to obtain information about budget cuts to the Yucca Mountain Program and to find out what impacts this reduced funding might have on the Program.

A reporter for the *Lincoln County Record* called with questions about the water permits DOE submitted to the State Engineer and what the Program plans are based on the reduced funding received. The reporter was referred to Office of Public Affairs representative for comments.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Allen Benson, 702-794-1322

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF SCIENCE
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Dr. Patricia M. Dehmer, Acting Director, Office Science, will be on official travel March 21-23.

II. Departmental News

Scientists Achieve Remote Detection of Drizzle from Low-Altitude Clouds: Low-altitude clouds have a significant influence on earth's climate through their interaction with radiation to and away from the earth. Because of the low thermal contrast between these clouds and earth's surface, it has been a major technical challenge to determine remotely if low-altitude clouds are producing rain. Investigators found that cloud drizzle is dictated by the vertical variation of rain drop size and total cloud water, using a novel remote sensing method with the Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program ARM program millimeter wave cloud radar. Drizzling clouds usually exhibit a decreasing trend of rain droplet size with altitude, while non-drizzling clouds have an opposite trend. Both theoretical analyses and observations suggest that drizzle drops can significantly increase in size near the bottom of a cloud layer. These findings help improve remote sensing of precipitation amounts and understanding of aerosol effects on clouds, associated rain, and climate.

Media Interest: No.

Program Contact: Dr. Kiran Alapaty, SC-23.1, (301) 903-3175

Office of Science Research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory Yields Method to Estimate Fossil Energy-based CO₂ Emissions from U.S. Croplands: DOE supports research to understand mechanisms of carbon sequestration in managed ecosystems. An important part of that research is knowing the sources of carbon emissions. Scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory report a method to estimate both on- and off-site fossil energy-based CO₂ emissions (FCE) associated with crop production. FCE was found to differ by crop and region because of changes in energy requirements for crop production driven by environmental differences, e.g., soil texture, soil chemistry, and climate. Changes in policies (e.g., Farm Bills) and abrupt changes in annual weather patterns (e.g., droughts and wet years) have also resulted in annual shifts in FCE. This new method is important because estimates of fossil-fuel consumption for cropping practices and the associated CO₂ emissions enable (i) monitoring of energy and emissions with changes in land management and (ii) calculation and balancing of regional and national carbon budgets.

Media interest: No.

Contact: Dr. Mike Kuperberg, SC-23.1, (301) 903-3511; Dr. Roger Dahlman, SC-23.1, (301) 903-4951

Office of Scientific and Technical Information Enhances Capabilities of DOE R&D Project Summaries Database: Research programs and other organizations that want to store and manipulate DOE project summary data in their own analysis systems can now do so using a service at the DOE R&D Project Summaries database. The Office of Scientific and Technical Information recently added the R&D Project XML Service Manual to the DOE R&D Project Summaries database Information page. This service allows research programs and others to specify data in their areas of interest and then, using a search query, view, store and use data in alternate ways – including data mining. Projects are conducted by the DOE laboratories, research facilities, and grantees in a range of disciplines in energy, science, and technology. This service is the newest feed available from OSTI and a part of OSTI's ongoing efforts to increase transparency of R&D through expanded access to R&D results. Other XML data services from OSTI collections include energy-related information in technical reports, citations and patents, and data specific to geothermal, hydropower, and vehicle technologies.

Media Interest: No.

Contact: Dr. Walter Warnick, SC-44, 301-903-7996

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

A reporter with Diagnostic Imaging Magazine interviewed Dr. Anna Palmisano, Associate Director of Science for Biological and Environmental Research, about medical imaging technology research.

A reporter with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel asked for and was provided the total projected cost of the Linac Coherent Light Source under construction at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory.

A reporter with the Columbus Dispatch requested and was given information about the Office of Biological and Environmental Research's funding of research for the DOE artificial retina project.

VI. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Kenneth E. Legg, Administrator – The Administrator will be on annual leave
March 19-25.

Acting Administrator (Jan. – March): Leon Jourolmon, 706-213-3835

II. Departmental News

Project Coordination Committee (PCC) Meeting: The Assistant Administrator for Finance and Marketing and other Southeastern staff will attend a PCC meeting in Gatlinburg, TN, on March 23-24. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss customer funding of repairs and replacements of generating equipment in the Cumberland System.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Herb Nadler, 706-213-3853

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 19, 2009

I. Schedule

Jon Worthington, Administrator – March 23-24, Washington, DC
Gary Swartzlander, Acting – 918-595-6634

II. Key Departmental News

Representatives from the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), the Southwestern Power Resources Association and the City of Jonesboro will meet with Arkansas Congressman Marion Berry's Office in Washington, DC on March 24, to discuss Southwestern's final determination of impacts to hydropower interests as a result of implementing the White River Minimum Flows Legislation.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: George Robbins, 918-595-6680

~~The **Monthly Operational Plan Meeting** will be held on March 26, with the Corps of Engineers via teleconference. The monthly meetings are held with Operations and Water Control personnel from the Corps Southwestern Division and Fort Worth, Kansas City, Little Rock, St. Louis, and Tulsa Districts to discuss projected generation needs for the coming month, competing use issues, and various Corps activities/studies which impact hydropower generation.~~

~~**Media Interest:** None~~

~~**Program Contact:** George Robbins, 918-595-6680~~

Arkansas/Missouri Municipal Customer Power Pool (ARKMO) Meeting will be held on March 26, at a time and place to be announced. Discussion will center on Southwestern's upcoming Tariff and Rate Schedule changes, anticipated hydro energy availability, scheduling of customer resources, the previous month's pool operation, and Regional Transmission Organization options and their anticipated impact on Federal hydroelectric power production and deliveries.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Marshall Boyken, 918-595-6646

The **2nd Annual Environmental Conference** will be held on March 27, in Joplin, Missouri. The conference will address state water plans in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Representatives from each state will present a status report on their respective state water plans. The impact of climate change on reservoirs will also be discussed. The Conference is co-sponsored by the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks,

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, and Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: George Robbins, 918-595-6680

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 20, 2009

I. Schedule

Schedule for Administrator - Timothy J. Meeks

March 23 Meeting off site - Trans-Elect
March 23 Annual Leave (p.m.)
March 25 Annual Leave (a.m.)
April 1-3 Annual leave
April 7-8 CREPC/WIRAB Meeting, San Diego, CA
April 9-10 Senior Manager's Face-to-face Meeting, Lakewood, CO
(Acting: Tony Montoya)

II. Departmental News

Public Scoping Meetings for TANC Transmission Project Set. The Transmission Agency of Northern California and Western will host 12 public scoping meetings, starting on March 26 in Sacramento and ending on April 15, in Stockton, on a proposed new transmission project which is intended to increase electric system reliability and facilitate the delivery of the California-based renewables to urban load centers within Northern California. TANC and Western will prepare a joint environmental impact statement/environmental report analyzing the impacts associated with constructing new and upgraded 230-kilovolt and 500-kV transmission infrastructure within five separate transmission corridors in Northern California. If all elements of the proposed project are constructed, up to 600 miles of new and upgraded transmission infrastructure would be involved. Other meetings will be held in: Alturas, Burney, Santa Clara, Turlock, Chico, Susanville, Modesto, Tracy, Redding, and Williams, Calif.

Media Interest: Trade and local media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

FERC Orders Modifications to California Locational Marginal Pricing Procedures. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order on March 6, 2009, in FERC Docket ER08-1113, California Independent System Operator Corp. (CAISO). The Commission agreed with Western that CAISO's Market Enhancement and Efficiency Agreement (MEEA) must reflect the Locational Marginal Price (LMP) at the nodes at which the actual import or export of energy associated with a particular interchange transaction has been demonstrated to have taken place. The Commission also agreed with Western that the CAISO's obligation to ensure that accurate LMPs are determined for each and every interchange transaction with a MEEA signatory. The Commission agreed with Western's concerns that the CAISO's restrictions of imports and exports based on simultaneous sales and maximum eligible quantities were not justified. Finally, the Commission agreed with Western that the tariff language should safeguard information provided by an entity that ultimately fails to negotiate a MEEA with the

CAISO. The Commission ordered the CAISO to make tariff modifications based on the Commission's order and re-file them within 60 days.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

FERC Approves Market Redesign Technology Upgrade Go-Live Date. On March 13, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission published an order approving an informational filing made by the California Independent System Operator on January 16, which certified that the CAISO's new market redesign initiative, referred to as Market Redesign Technology Upgrade, was ready for implementation. The FERC order approved MRTU "going live" on April 1. FERC made this decision based on its review of the data contained within the CAISO's informational filing, the attestations by key CAISO managerial staff that MRTU was ready to "go-live," and on the numerous commitments on the part of the CAISO to achieve the milestones and satisfactorily resolve the issues which had been previously identified in the January 19 certification filing. On March 16, the CAISO submitted an interim status report to FERC which reaffirmed that all preparations were on track to enable the CAISO to deploy its MRTU initiative on April 1 as stated earlier in its January 16 certification filing.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

Amistad-Falcon Annual Customer Meeting Scheduled. On April 2, staff from Western, the South Texas Electric Cooperative, and the International Boundary and Water Commission will meet in Victoria, Texas. Scheduled topics of discussion include the preliminary FY 2010 annual installment, the current status of water conditions and projected power generation for the coming fiscal year, and the status of WAPA-143, the Rate Order renewing the rate formula of the Amistad-Falcon Project. The current rate formula will expire on June 7. Western proposes to renew the formula rate for a 5-year period

South Texas Electric Cooperative is the only Falcon-Amistad Project customer and purchases all power generation and pays all associated expenses from the Amistad and Falcon Power Plants. Annual estimates of operation, maintenance, replacement and repayment expenses for these two power plants are determined, and the annual installment payments are based upon these estimates. An estimate to actual adjustment is computed each year and included in the next year's installment. The rate is not dependent upon generation output.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

Western Facilitates Wind Energy Webinar. Western facilitated a webinar, entitled *20 Percent Wind Energy by 2030: Challenges and Opportunities*. The webinar was conducted on March 12, with more than 100 utility and industry participants from across the United States. Speakers provided an overview of the U.S. DOE 20 Percent Wind Report, with additional presentations focusing on the implications for utilities, market transformation, and integration challenges of 20 percent wind. The webinar lasted two

hours with the majority of participant questions concerning transmission related issues associated with 20 percent wind scenario. This year's webinar cosponsors include the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Public Power Association, National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, Utility Wind Integration Group, American Wind Energy Association, and the Northwest Public Power Association. The next webinar is scheduled for April 15 and will address Green jobs and Economic Development. Webinars are recorded and can be watched at www.repartners.org.

Media Interest: Trade media

Program Contact: Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

Western staff responded to a no media inquiries this week

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

DOE WEEKLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY

March 27, 2009

The following program office did not submit a Weekly Report for this time period:

Energy Information Administration

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

April 6: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator Steve Wright will speak to a National Smart Grid Conference in Spokane, Washington. United States Senator Maria Cantwell is headlining the conference.

April 8: The Administrator will appear on a panel with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Administrator Timothy Meeks at a joint meeting in San Diego, California, of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Board. The panel will discuss how BPA and WAPA will use Treasury borrowing authority provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok will be acting.

April 15 - 16: The Administrator will attend the annual members' meeting of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in Atlanta, Georgia. At this meeting, the Administrator will assume BPA's seat on EPRI's Board of Directors. The Deputy Administrator will be acting.

II. Departmental News

Court Meeting on BiOp Litigation: On April 2, the United States District Court for Oregon will hold a closed-door meeting with parties to litigation over the Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). District Court Judge James A. Redden invited discussion of issues raised in the March 6, oral argument in the litigation.

Media Interest: Medium

Contact: Sonya Baskerville 202-586-5640

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Transmission Line Construction Information: On March 23, Stuart W. Smith of Miller and Associates in Lake Oswego, Oregon, requested correspondence between BPA and the Federal Aviation Administration related to construction of the Schultz-Wautoma transmission line.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report

II. Departmental News

Nothing to report

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report.

II. Departmental News

Congressional Hearings:

On April 1, Howard Gruenspecht, Acting EI-1 will testify before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management regarding legislation on the state of America's farm and rural economy in light of the current economic climate and energy markets.

Media Interest: Yes

Program Contact: Kathy Peery, 202-586-2794

Congressional Site Visits and Events:

On April 1, Aron Miller from State Senator Fran Pavley's office will tour the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in Canoga Park, California.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

On April 3, Santa Susana Field Laboratory will host a tour for local elected officials and community and business leaders from Simi Valley and San Fernando Valley.

Participants are interested in the potential of the site after cleanup, assuming it will be cleaned to a use level designated as open space or parkland.

Media Interest: Limited

Program Contact: Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Nothing to report.

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT AND DIVERSITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

The Acting Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Annie Whatley will be in the office the week of March 30, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

Business Opportunity Session (BOS) - The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will host a BOS session on – March 31, 2009, in room 6E-069 of the Forrestal building from 8:30 a.m. to 4p.m. This BOS is in support of Women's History Month and will target opportunities for Women-Owned Small Businesses. Program offices receiving funds from the Recovery Act will present their current and potential contracting requirements.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Kent Hibben, 586-8086

National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education, April 1-4, 2009. A staff member from the Office of Minority Economic Impact will participate in the National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education April 1-4, 2009, in Atlanta, GA. The conference is a unique opportunity for stakeholders across the higher-education spectrum and in health, labor, workforce, business and entrepreneurship spectra to play a direct role in shaping the direction of higher education policy for black students and for America's black colleges.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Annie Whatley, 586-0281

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) Civic Responsibility Conference will be held on March 31, 2009 – April 2, 2009 in Washington, DC. As part of the conference, the Office of Minority Economic Impact will host 100 talented students from 47 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on April 1, for a day of discussions with DOE program representatives in the DOE Forrestal auditorium beginning at 9:30 a.m. Secretary Chu will greet the students during the morning session. Participants include students majoring in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), political science, and government. In addition, these students have demonstrated an interest in a career in the public sector and are committed to community service.

Media Interest: None

Point of Contact: Amanda Quinones, 586-0691

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables
Nothing to report

V. Press Inquiries
Nothing to report

VI. FOIA Requests
Nothing to report

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule for Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Steve Chalk

Steve Chalk has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

II. Departmental News

Vice President Biden and Secretary Chu Announce \$3.2 Billion in Funding for Local Energy Efficiency Improvements, March 26. Vice President of the United States Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced plans to invest \$3.2 billion in energy efficiency and conservation projects in U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Native American tribes. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency nationwide.

Media Interest: National press

Program Contact: Gil Sperling, 202-287-1644

President Obama Promotes Efficiency with Serious Materials and High R Windows, March 23. As part of a clean energy event, President Barack Obama highlighted the work of Serious Materials, a company that has developed a high efficiency window. DOE has been working with Serious Materials for more than a year and helped get its products NFRC certified, as well as ASTM E2190 compliant for insulated glass durability. Serious Materials praised DOE's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's design performance simulation tools, which enabled Serious Materials to develop cost effective highly insulated windows that surpass the new proposed Energy Star criteria by over 30 percent. Serious Materials worked with Oak Ridge National Laboratory on advanced zero energy building research houses. With windows accounting for the weakest link in thermal envelopes, advanced products will be a major part of the anticipated solicitation that will be pursued with ARRA funds once approved.

Media Interest: Trade and national press

Program Contact: Marc LaFrance, 202-586-9142

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

2009 ENERGY STAR Awards Ceremony, Washington, DC, March 31. The ENERGY STAR Awards Ceremony will take place on March 31, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Each year, DOE and EPA honor the efforts of leading manufacturers, retailers, utility companies, and a variety of state and regional

programs that promote energy efficiency and awareness of the ENERGY STAR label. More than 700 people are expected to attend the evening dinner event; Secretary of Energy Steven Chu has been invited to open the awards ceremony.

Media Interest: Trade press

Program Contact: Richard Orrison, 202-586-1633

Annual Hydrogen Conference and Expo, Columbia, South Carolina, March 31 – April 2. The National Hydrogen Association (NHA) will hold the 20th Annual Hydrogen Conference March 31 – April 2, 2008, in Columbia, SC. The conference will bring together more than 1,000 national and international experts representing government, industry, academia, and small businesses to discuss R&D progress and challenges, early markets, and ways to advance the use of commercially-available hydrogen and fuel cell products. Dr. JoAnn Milliken, DOE Hydrogen Program Manager, will provide keynote remarks in the opening plenary session. Other Hydrogen Program staff will give presentations and participate in panels covering topics including hydrogen storage R&D, analysis, early fuel cell markets, financing and commercialization, and communications.

Media Interest: State, local, and trade press

Program Contact: JoAnn Milliken, 202-586-2480

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report during this reporting period

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will be in Washington, DC, during the week of March 30-April 3, 2009.

II. Key Departmental News

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) briefing to the Regulators: On Thursday, March 26, 2009, DOE ORP briefed the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the ARRA and FY 2009 Omnibus allocation. This briefing fulfills requirements of the *Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* (a.k.a., Tri Party Agreement). In addition, ORP will provide additional information on the ARRA as it becomes available.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Lori Gamache, (509) 372-9130

United States (U.S.)-Poland Joint Consultative Group Meeting: On March 19, EM staff participated in the first U.S.-Poland Consultative Group meeting at the State Department in Washington, DC. Discussions focused on identifying new initiatives for possible cooperation under the U.S.-Poland Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement signed February 2006. The Joint Consultative Group aims to foster transatlantic research cooperation, notably through implementing arrangements between the Polish research organization and U.S. research funding agencies. Thematic areas discussed included clean energy, nanotechnology, health, and biotechnology. EM had an active program with Poland under a 1995 Cooperative Agreement on environmental restoration and hazardous waste. All projects under the agreement have been completed, but EM may reconsider reestablishing relations at a future date as the EM international cooperative program expands and new areas of cooperation are identified.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Ana M. Han, 202-586-0579

EM Wins Three EStar Awards: On March 19, DOE announced the FY 2008 Environmental Sustainability (EStar) Award Recipients. EM has won three awards: the East Tennessee Technology Park "*Information Technology (IT) Organization Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization Projects*," will receive an EStar Award; and two entries from the Savannah River Site, "*SRS Biomass Steam Plant Team*" and "*SRS Deploys New Gasket Removal and Replacement Tool*," will receive an EStar Honorable Mention. The EStar Awards competition recognizes exemplary environmental

sustainability practices across the Department. The EStar Awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with DOE's Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2009.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Ker-Chi Chang, 301-903-1383

Update: Waste Processing Pilot Plant (WIPP) Ten-year Anniversary of First Waste

Receipt: March 26, 2009 marked the 10-year anniversary of the first waste receipt and disposal at the WIPP site. WIPP staff participated in radio talk shows along the New Mexico shipping corridor to inform stakeholders of the many accomplishments WIPP has achieved in 10 years of operation and to thank local communities for their support. WIPP-related articles are expected in a number of NM newspapers next week.

Media Interest: Moderate

Program Contact: Lauren Milone, 202-586-2932 / Roger Nelson, 575-234-7213

Office of Environmental Management Briefs Quicksilver Caucus on Mercury

Export Ban Act: On March 18, 2009, Bill Levitan, Director of the Office of Compliance, presented DOE's developing plans for managing mercury stockpiles pursuant to the Mercury Export Ban Act to the Quicksilver Caucus. Information on the plans for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to designate a mercury storage facility and the timeline for release of a guidance document on mercury storage were presented. The Quicksilver Caucus, established in May 2001, is a coalition of State environmental association leaders with a shared goal to develop approaches for reducing mercury in the environment. Caucus members include the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR).

Media interest: None

Program Contact: David Borak, EM-13, (202) 586-9928

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest

Nothing to report.

IV. Progress On EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements And Publications

Nothing to report.

**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary Der

All travel and speaking engagements reported through April 17.

II. Key Departmental News

International Community Updated on U.S. Carbon Sequestration Activities. NETL staff presented overviews of the DOE Carbon Sequestration Regional Partnerships and the Carbon Capture component of FE's Innovations for Existing Plants Program to the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change, which met March 10-12. Hosted by the University of Copenhagen, more than 2,500 delegates from nearly 80 countries participated in the Congress. The Congress supplements the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by identifying and synthesizing science, technology, and policy advances important to the sustainability of global communities in the current and coming decades. Findings of the Congress will be made available to policy makers at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15) to be held December 7-18.

Program Contact: Bruce Lani, 412/386-5819

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Studies Cyber-Infrastructure. Working with NETL, the NAS initiated a 14-month study to evaluate the issues and resources needed to assemble a cyber-infrastructure that could improve coordination and collaboration among federal agencies and private sector research centers involved in combustion research.

Program Contact: Pete Strakey, 304/285-4476

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (14-day advance)

None

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Research Partnership to Secure Energy for America (RPSEA) Receives Responses to Ultra-Deepwater Program Solicitations. RPSEA will distribute proposals received under six solicitations that closed March 3, to established industry review teams.

Completion of proposal reviews is anticipated for late April. The work is directed under Section 999 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Program Contact: Gary Covatch, 304/285-4589

V. Press Inquiries
None

VI. FOIA Requests

Sierra Club Request. Keith Harley, Attorney at Law, Chicago Legal Clinic (on behalf of Sierra Club) has asked for info about DOE's evaluation of the environmental impacts to fund, approve and participate in the pilot sequestration project at Archer Daniels Midland Company's ethanol plant in Decatur, IL.

Information Related to Enron. Gavin Benke, Dept. of America Studies, Univ. of TX at Austin, has requested copies of meeting minutes, correspondence, or material related to the Enron Corporation and its related companies from 1985 to 2000 that address issues of energy and natural gas deregulation in U.S. and material that addresses Enron's changing business model from 1997-2001.

Information Related to GE Liquid Test Plan. Jason McKahan, Shepherd University, has requested Information regarding the nature of the Government support of General Electric's Liquid Test Plan for clean coal-generated power in the early 1980s.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications
None

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

No leave or travel plans.

II. Departmental News

BRIEF FILED IN SECURITY CLEARANCE REVOCATION CASE

El-Ganayni v. U.S. Department of Energy (3d Cir.). The plaintiff filed his opening brief. The Government's response is due April 21, 2009. In this matter, the plaintiff, a former Bettis lab physicist, is appealing the district court's dismissal of the plaintiff's claims that his security clearance was terminated in retaliation for his exercise of his rights of free speech and free exercise of religion in violation of the First and Fifth Amendments. Secretary Bodman terminated the plaintiff's security clearance in the interests of national security, and pursuant to a finding that the notice and hearing demanded by the plaintiff "cannot be made available . . . without damaging the interests of national security by revealing classified information." (A. Fingeret, GC-31, 586-5678)

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 26, 2009

I. Schedule

Nothing to report in this area

II. Key Departmental News

Nothing to report in this area

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): The Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer issued timely guidance to the human resources community clarifying the requirements for using hiring flexibilities to appointment individuals to positions in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

One memorandum provides guidance on the Direct Hire Authority authorized by the Act. This authority may be used under certain conditions to fill positions needed to support energy efficiency and renewable energy activities and the electricity delivery and reliability activities funded by the Act. The Secretary must first make a determination that either a critical hiring need or a shortage of candidates exists before the flexibility can be used. The guidance provides the criteria to develop a proper justification for approval by the Secretary, which is consistent with Title 5 and OPM guidance.

The other memorandum provides guidance on the appropriate use of Schedule A, Excepted Service Appointing Authority to fill positions need to meet the program requirements funded by the Act. A vacancy announcement is not required to use the Schedule A Authority. However, the rules governing veterans' preference continue to apply. The guidance provides for consistent application of the authority in accordance with OPM guidance related to a recent court ruling.

Media Interest: None

Contact Person: Kenneth Venuto, 202-586-7138

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

Nothing to report in this area.

V. Press Inquiries

Nothing to report in this area.

VI. FOIA Requests

Nothing to report in this area.

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

Nothing to report in this area.

**OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule

II. Departmental News

Cases Received: The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received five requests by individuals that a hearing be conducted under 10 CFR Part 710 to determine their eligibility to be granted or continue to hold a DOE security clearance.

Hearings Conducted:

During the present week, OHA Hearing Officers conducted personnel security hearings (10 CFR Part 710) in Los Alamos, NM, in Albuquerque, NM, in Kansas City, MS, and in Amarillo, TX.

Decisions Issued:

Personnel Security (10 CFR Part 710)

On March 23, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which he concluded that an individual's access authorization should not be restored. A DOE Operations Office referred the matter to administrative review citing the individual's history of alcohol use and incidents of domestic violence. After conducting a hearing and evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer found that the security concerns remain unresolved. In making his determination, the Hearing Officer noted that the individual had only recently begun to acknowledge his problems with alcohol and had not sought treatment for those problems. Citing the testimony of a DOE consultant psychiatrist, the Hearing Officer found that these steps were necessary in order to sufficiently mitigate the risk that the individual would drink to intoxication in the future. The Hearing Officer also found that, while the risk of future domestic violence incidents appears to be reduced, there remains an ongoing concern regarding the individual's lack of judgment under stress. OHA Case No. TSO-0689 (Steven J. Goering, 287-1541)

On March 20, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which she concluded that an individual's access authorization should be granted. The background investigation of the individual revealed that he previously held a DOE security clearance, but that it was terminated in 1996 when he was fired for twice testing positive on random drug tests. During the hearing, the individual testified that he had not used drugs in thirteen years, and presented corroborating evidence of several years of clean drug test results. Various witnesses testified that the individual had reformed his behavior and was now an honest, responsible person with a good reputation in the community. In addition, a clinical psychologist testified that the individual did not suffer from substance abuse or dependence, and that the individual had a low probability of illegal drug use in the future. After evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer found

that the individual had mitigated the security concerns regarding his previous drug use. She further found that the individual had mitigated the security concern regarding his dishonest conduct (specifically, his use of illegal drugs while holding a clearance) by the passage of time and also by his honesty in confronting his drug use and successfully reforming his behavior. OHA Case No. TSO-0686 (Valerie Vance Adeyeye, 287-1486)

Appeal

On March 25, 2009, OHA issued a decision granting in part a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal filed by the Environmental Defense Institute (EDI). EDI filed a request with Idaho for documents referring to the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) that were referenced in DOE/Idaho National Laboratory (INL) A Certification Report No. 29. Idaho released a number of documents to EDI in full, but withheld portions of eight documents relying on FOIA Exemption 2. In addition, Idaho withheld a portion of one other document under FOIA Exemption 4. EDI challenged these withholdings. In considering the Appeal, OHA found that Idaho properly withheld the redacted information under Exemption 2, but that Idaho had not adequately justified its withholding under Exemption 4. OHA therefore remanded the matter to Idaho for a new determination. OHA Case No. TFA-0298 (Janet Fishman, 287-1579)

Application for Exception

On March 23, 2009, OHA issued a decision denying an Application for Exception filed by Dobrauc Oil Co., Inc. (Dobrauc). In its submission, Dobrauc sought to be permanently excused from the requirement of filing Form EIA-782B, entitled A Resellers'/Retailers' Monthly Petroleum Product Sales Report. In support of this request, the firm averred that it had been filing the form for over 10 years. In its decision, the OHA stated that the length of time that a company had been filing the form was not a sufficient reason for exception relief. OHA further concluded that Dobrauc had not shown that it is burdened by the filing requirement to a significantly greater extent than other small vendors, especially in light of the firm's statement that it spends only 30 minutes per month completing the form. OHA Case No. TEE-0058 (Robert B. Palmer, 287-1449)

Whistleblower (10 CFR Part 708)

On March 29, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision granting a Motion for Summary Judgment filed by ENVIRO AgScience (EAS), relating to a complaint filed against EAS by James J. Myers (complainant), a former EAS employee, under the DOE's Contractor Employee Protection Program, 10 CFR Part 708. EAS, a subcontractor at the DOE Savannah River Site, had hired Mr. Myers as a lawn equipment operator. In his complaint, Mr. Myers alleged that EAS terminated him in June 2008 because he brought to management's attention a "potential safety concern regarding work-related duties in the use of a certain piece of equipment [a walk-behind lawn mower] on May 1, 2008." However, upon review of the uncontested facts presented in the record, the Hearing Officer found that the complainant had stated only that the walk-behind mower was "unfamiliar" and that he "ran it as fast and safe as he would with others and his safety in mind." Thus, the Hearing Officer concluded, as a matter of law, that Mr. Myers could not prove that he had a reasonable belief that his disclosure revealed "a substantial and

specific danger to employees or to public health or safety” under Part 708. Accordingly, EAS’ motion was granted and the complainant’s complaint was dismissed. OHA Case No. TBZ-0083 (Kimberly Jenkins-Chapman, 287-1499)

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

EEOC MD-715 Report:

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has received concurrence from the Office of General Counsel for its draft FY2008 Federal Agency Annual EEO Program Status Report (EEOC MD-715 Report). We are awaiting concurrence from the Office of Human Capital Management. We anticipate submitting the report to the EEOC by March 31, 2009.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Title IX Compliance Review, North Carolina State University:

OCR staff was onsite for a Title IX compliance review at North Carolina State University. DOE employees from OCR, HG, and various field offices participated in the Title IX compliance review, which focused on the University’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The team interviewed 80 students and 30 faculty/administrators. A report will be prepared, including findings and recommendations.

Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

Title IX Compliance Review, University of Washington – Seattle:

OCR is finalizing a draft report of its Title IX Compliance Review of the University of Washington – Seattle. Once the draft is finalized and approved, it will be issued to the University.

Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act Seminar:

On Tuesday, April 7, OCR will host a seminar on the new Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act. The speaker for the seminar will be Christopher Kuczynski, Assistant Legal Counsel for EEOC’s ADA Policy Division. Representatives from the Office of Human Capital Management, the Office of General Counsel, NNSA, DOE field EEO/Diversity Managers, and others have been invited to participate.

Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

Title VI/Title IX Compliance Desk Audit Procedures:

OCR completed a draft of its Title VI/Title IX Compliance Desk Audit Procedures. The procedures will be used to conduct audits of recipients of DOE federal financial assistance. Following final approval, the procedures will be implemented by the OCR in conducting Title VI and Title IX reviews.

Contact: Sharon Wyatt, x6-2256

Executive Order 13160 Procedures:

OCR completed its procedures for processing complaints of discrimination pursuant to Executive Order 13160 (“Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Race, Sex, Color, National

Origin, Disability, Religion, Age, Sexual Orientation, and Status as a Parent in Federally Conducted Education and Training Programs”). Following final approval, the procedures will be implemented by OCR. Contact: Sharon Wyatt, x6-2256

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on IPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications

**OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY
WEEKLY REPORT**

March 27, 2009

I. Schedule: Glenn S. Podonsky, Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer

March 27: Conducted briefing for Office of Science (SC) senior management regarding Pacific Northwest National and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (PNNL and LBNL, respectively) Independent Oversight Environment, Safety and Health inspection results. The Deputy Chief for Operations and Office of Independent Oversight management will accompany.

March 30: Provide keynote address at the annual meeting of the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP), which is conducted by the United Steelworkers (USW)/Queens College of the City University of New York (Queens College) as a component of the Former Worker Medical Screening Program. (See below for additional details.)

March 31: Conduct briefing for NNSA senior management regarding Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Independent Oversight Emergency Management inspection results. The Deputy Chief for Operations and Office of Independent Oversight management will accompany.

April 6-10: Annual Leave. Reachable at all times.

Schedule: William A. Eckroade, Acting Deputy Chief for Operations

April 3: Conduct briefing for Office of Environmental Management (EM) senior management regarding Savannah River Site (SRS) Independent Oversight Safeguards and Security inspection results. Office of Independent Oversight management will accompany.

II. Departmental News

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Personally Identifiable Information (PII): HSS completed its investigation last week (March 13) of the circumstances regarding the loss of a compact disk (CD) containing PII associated with current and former INL workers. The Chief Health, Safety, and Security Officer informed the DOE Leadership Team of the facts of the incident this week. An internal investigation has been conducted and the final report is prepared. HSS continued efforts to resume both Former Worker Program (FWP) and Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) program activities throughout the Department this week on a case-by-case basis. In addition, HSS continued efforts to notify all current and former INL workers, offering them free credit monitoring and providing a toll free phone number for additional information. UPS has concluded that the CD in question never left UPS and was destroyed or rendered unusable in their process.

Management Impact: While it is concluded the CD was not lost but destroyed and there is no evidence that PII was ever compromised or exploited, HSS is using the lessons learned to aggressively take steps to prevent recurrences of such events by implementing improvements in requirements and processes for protecting PII and ensuring the continuity of important programs such as FWP and EEIOCPA.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: Glenn S. Podonsky, (301) 903-3777

Pantex Security Enforcement Program Review: HSS conducted a Security Enforcement Program Review at Pantex this week (March 24-26) to evaluate the classified information security program elements that support the Babcock & Wilcox Pantex classified information security regulatory program.

Management Impact: This activity supports the Department's commitment to enforce classified information security regulations.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Worker Safety and Health Enforcement Investigations:

1. HSS is conducting onsite investigation activities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) March 23 – April 3 regarding deficiencies associated with the laboratory's Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program and work planning and control deficiencies associated with actual and potential worker exposures to beryllium.
2. HSS is scheduled to conduct onsite investigation activities at Sandia National Laboratories – New Mexico (SNL-NM) April 6-10 regarding the inadvertent ignition of a rocket motor that occurred at the laboratory's Sled Track Test Site October 9, 2008.

Management Impact: This activity supports the Department's commitment to enforce worker safety and health regulations.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Security Awareness Special Interest Group (SASIG) Annual Workshop: HSS is scheduled to host the annual SASIG workshop at the Nevada Site Office next week (March 31-April 1). Approximately 70 individuals are expected to attend.

Management Impact: The workshop provides an opportunity to share lessons learned, highlight new security initiatives, and promote uniformity in the implementation of security awareness programs resulting in improvements in program efficiency and effectiveness.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Meeting: HSS is scheduled to participate in an IAEA meeting in Vienna, Austria, next week (March 30-April 3) to lead a project working team in the development of a comparison between the IAEA GS-R-3,

The Management System for Facilities and Activities and ASME NQA-1-2008, Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications.

Management Impact: This effort will assist DOE programs that use services and vendors from other countries by identifying gaps in quality assurance processes that need to be addressed.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Annual Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP) Meeting: HSS is scheduled to participate in the annual WHPP meeting conducted by the United Steelworkers (USW)/Queens College of the City University of New York (Queens College) in Washington, DC, next week (March 30). Discussions will include progress and future planning of projects for former workers from the Idaho, Oak Ridge, and Brookhaven National Laboratories (INL, ORNL, and BNL), the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), the Mound and Fernald sites, and the Portsmouth, Paducah, and K-25 gaseous diffusion plants (GDP).

Management Impact: The Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer is scheduled to provide the key note address at the meeting.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

BioSurety Policy: HSS, in coordination with the BioSurety Executive Team chaired by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and consisting of representatives from the Office of Science (SC), the Office of General Counsel (GC), and the Office of the Deputy Secretary (DS), anticipates providing a policy pertaining to biological research laboratories to the Office of Management for Secretarial approval next week (March 31).

Management Impact: The new policy will communicate the Department's expectations for the approval of biological agent facilities and select agent work at DOE sites.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Other Government Agencies (OGAs) Classification/Declassification Training: Two half-day Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers Refresher Courses are scheduled to be conducted next week (March 31) at NARA in College Park, MD, for reviewers from various agencies.

Management Impact: These activities support DOE's responsibility to assist OGAs to identify RD and FRD and prevent the inadvertent release of sensitive nuclear technologies.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Annual Report to Congress on DOE Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB): The Annual Report is being routed for final Departmental concurrence and approval.

Management Impact: The report is being prepared per Section 316(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 requiring DOE to submit an annual written report to Congress addressing the Department's DNFSB-related activities.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Independent Oversight Activities:

1. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (March 23-26).
2. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Emergency Management Follow-up Appraisal: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (March 23-26).
3. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Classification and Information Control Inspection: Onsite inspection activities were conducted this week (March 23-27).
4. Pantex Environment, Safety and Health Inspection: Onsite data collection activities are scheduled to be conducted March 30 – April 9.
5. Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) Classification and Information Control Inspection: Onsite inspection activities are scheduled to be conducted April 7-8.
6. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted April 7-8.
7. Office of Secure Transportation (OST) Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted April 8-9.

Management Impact: These activities support the independent evaluation of the status of the Department's security, cyber security, emergency management, and environment, safety and health (ES&H) programs.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:

- March 24: The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) briefed the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- March 26: The Responsible Manager briefed the Board on Recommendation 2007-1, *Safety-related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials*, implementation plan activities.
- March 26: HSS briefed the Board on verifying implementation of specific administrative controls changes developed in response to Recommendation 2002-3, *Requirements for Design, Implementation and Maintenance of Administrative Control*, and validation of safety basis controls changes.
- March 26: EM, HSS and NNSA briefed the Board on Quality Assurance activities.
- April 6-7: Two Board members will travel to Y-12 for a site visit.
- April 7: NNSA will brief the Board on Safe Handling of Insensitive High Explosives.

Management Impact: Information is provided to keep DOE Senior Management aware of DNFSB activities and interests.

Media Interest: None

Program Contact: William A. Eckroade, (202) 586-9275

III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)

IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables

V. Press Inquiries

VI. FOIA Requests

VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications
