

# DOE WEEKLY REPORT

January 30, 2009

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

All Program Offices Reported

## BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

January 30, 2009

### I. Schedule

**February 2 – 5:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator Steve Wright will be in Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation and Department of Energy officials. Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok will be acting.

**February 12:** The Administrator will participate in the first meeting of the Oregon Energy Planning Council. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski invited the Administrator to serve on the 11 member council to provide analysis, advice and assistance on energy planning for the state.

**February 25:** The Administrator is Chairman of the United States Entity for the Columbia River Treaty. The United States Army Corps of Engineers makes the other component of the United States Entity. Each year, the Canadian and United States Entities meet with a technical review body established under the Treaty, the Permanent Engineering Board. This year, the meeting is in Vancouver, B.C., on February 25, to review the prior year's Treaty business. 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**

## **VI. FOIA Requests**

**Fatality at BPA Substation:** Local media covered the discovery of the death of an individual at a substation co-owned by BPA near Pasco, Washington. On the morning of January 27, the man climbed into the substation and onto a transformer and apparently deliberately electrocuted himself. The man was not a BPA employee

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**Water Conservation Study:** On January 22, Carol Gardner, of Gardner Resource Management Services in Portland, Oregon, requested a water conservation study that was performed at BPA facilities.

## **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

Nothing to report.

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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Steve Isakowitz has no leave or travel planned for the week of February 2, 2009.

**II. Departmental News**

**1st Quarter Financial Statements:** CF submitted the Department's first quarter interim financial statements on January 26, in accordance with OMB's reporting requirements. The submission included the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Net Cost, the Combined Statement of Budgetary Resources and descriptions of significant balance changes from first quarter FY 2008 to first quarter FY 2009. The purpose of interim financial statements is to ensure that timely and accurate financial information is readily available to Federal agency managers throughout the year.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Deanna Ammons, (301) 903-5374 / Jeffrey Carr, (301) 903-2506

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**First Quarter FACTSII Budgetary Data:** The Department's first quarter FY 2009 FACTS II budgetary trial balances were submitted to Treasury and certified on January 16, ten days before the January 26, deadline for submissions. Treasury provides this data to OMB and it is used to prepare the Departments SF-133s, Report on Budget Execution and Budgetary Resources.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Barbara Harbell, (310) 903-3774  
Bethany Williams, (301) 903-9715

**WCF Quarterly Reviews:** CF completed Quarterly Reviews of fourteen WCF Business Lines. Most businesses are expected to break even. Earned revenue for the Fund has totaled slightly over \$31.3 million for the first quarter, on track for an annual level of approximately \$117.5 million (consistent with Continuing Resolution). Business Expense for the same period was \$30.5 million resulting in net income of \$0.8 million.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Robert Emond, (202) 586-2354  
Howard Borgstrom, (202) 586-5923

**Integrated Oversight Strategy:** CF is leading an initiative to implement an Integrated Oversight Strategy to better manage our Headquarters and field activities. A major component of this Strategy, the Internal Review Council, held its first conference call on January 28, to discuss the Strategy's objectives, areas of interest, ideas for expansion, and

a path forward. The council is comprised of representatives from all field internal audit staffs and will meet bi-weekly.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Christine Shafik, (202) 586-4171

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

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

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**V. Press Inquiries**

**VI. FOIA Requests**

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcement, and Publications**

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report.

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**II. Departmental News**

**Congressional Meetings and Briefings:**

On February 3, Dave Johnson, FE and CI staff will meet with House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming staff, Morgan Gray, and others to discuss the 2009 plans for SPR fill.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Robert Tuttle, 202-586-4298

On February 4, Gena Cadieux, Mary Egger, GC and CI staff will meet with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, Jonathan Epstein and Senate Armed Services Committee staff, Arun Seraphin to discuss reciprocity opportunities of DOE and DOD funding.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

**Congressional Site Visits and Events:**

On February 2, Freshman Representative Jared Polis (D-CO) will visit NREL's National Wind Technology Center (NWTC) for briefings and a tour of its research facilities. The NWTC, which is separate from the main NREL campus, is in his district.

**Media Interest:** No

**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**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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

**II. Key Departmental News**

Nothing to report

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

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Conference/Minority Institutions (MI) Conference** – Staff members of the Office of Minority Economic Impact will attend the HBCU/MI Conference on February 2, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the conference is to educate HBCUs and MIs on Federal Government Office of Small Business Programs, HBCU/MI Program goals and other initiatives throughout the Federal Government. It will focus on assisting the HBCU's and MI's in positioning themselves to take advantage of the contracts and grant opportunities available within the Federal Government.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Jamie Scipio, 6-5876

**2009 Washington, DC Regional Science Bowl Training** – The Office of Minority Economic Impact is coordinating the DC Regional Science Bowl competition, which is being held on February 21, 2009, at the University of the District of Columbia. Staff members of the Office of Minority Economic Impact will provide training on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 for the DC regional science bowl volunteers. The training will cover topics such as: volunteer roles and responsibilities, rule changes and event logistics.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Chester Scott, 6-4676

**Small Business Reports** - The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (ED-3) completed the FY 2008 "Women-Owned Small business" report and the "Annual Report to the Secretary on Small Business" for FY 2008. The "Annual Report to the Secretary on Small Business" addresses the progress made on nine areas of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) scorecard for Federal agencies. Accordingly, this report is forwarded to the SBA for their review along with the Women's report.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Brenda Degraffenreid, 6-0281

**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

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule for Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Rita Wells**

Rita Wells has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

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**II. Departmental News**

**Office of the Biomass Program**

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation - Sao Paulo, Brazil - January 26-30, 2009.** Alison Goss Eng of the Biomass Program represented the U.S. as a lead author for the chapter on bioenergy on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report. She attended the first of four lead author meetings in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from January 26-30, 2009. IPCC was established by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant for the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. The special report on renewable energy sources and climate change mitigation will cover chapters on all the major sources of renewable energy including bioenergy, solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and hydropower. The report will also include information on mitigation potential and costs and policy, financing, and implementation. During this meeting, a 'zero-order draft' (ZOD) of the Special Report was initialized and a division of tasks was made.

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**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Alison Goss Eng, (202) 586-9109

***Office of Building Technologies Program***

**National EnergySmart Schools Financing Roundtable.** On February 5, 2009, a National EnergySmart Schools Financing Roundtable will be held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel in Tampa, Florida. The Roundtable is an invitation only forum held in conjunction with the 7th Annual High Performance Schools Symposium, sponsored by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI). The purpose of the Roundtable discussion is to bring together a select group of individuals with diverse knowledge of high performance school financing to discuss and develop innovative strategies, best practices and lessons learned beyond those described in the recently released *Guide to Financing EnergySmart Schools*. The key issues and recommendations from the Roundtable will be compiled and shared nationally with stakeholders and policy makers.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Margo Appel, 202-586-9495

**Operation Change Out.** DOE's campaign to help military bases to switch to CFLs now has the support of 99 bases. ACC Whitman and ACC Moody recently joined this effort. National Defense University / U.S. Air Force have committed to get the word out to encourage their bases to join the campaign. The Air Force has a dedicated team to address efficiency and behavior. Retailer / Manufacturer: ENERGY STAR is working with the Defense Commissary Agency, and Sylvania to roll out a pilot Earth Day Poster Contest at 6 installations. Sylvania will offer prizes for the winners, freebies to accompany the poster application and will help with outreach to schools in the area.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Lani MacRae, 202-586-9193

### ***Federal Energy Management Program***

**Federal Data Center Energy Efficiency Working Group Holds First Meeting.** On Wednesday, January 21, ten agency representatives attended the first meeting of the Federal Data Center Energy Efficiency Working Group in Washington, D.C., with at least six more attending virtually. The group will meet periodically with the goal of increasing energy efficiency in data centers throughout the Federal Government by sharing best-practice information and promoting data center efforts within each agency. FEMP is also building partnerships with industry stakeholders, who will present cutting-edge strategies and technologies at upcoming meetings.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Will Lintner, 202-586-3120

**FEMP to Host Energy Service Companies/Agency Meeting.** The Federal Energy Management Program is planning a meeting of sixteen energy service companies (ESCOs), and agency energy managers to kick off the new energy savings performance contracts that were recently signed. Sixteen ESCO's have been selected; each of them under separate indefinite delivery indefinite quantity contracts of up to \$5 billion for improvements in federal building energy and water efficiency and renewable energy projects. The meeting will take place in early March.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Ab Ream, 202-586-7230

### ***Office of Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Program***

**Departments of Energy, Defense, and Interior to Partner with the State of Hawaii to Deploy Fuel Cell Buses Using Renewable Hydrogen, Hilo, Hawaii, January 29-30, 2009.** DOE Hydrogen Program will meet with the Office of Naval Research, National Park Service, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, and Hawaii Electric Light Company to proceed with developing detailed plans for deploying hydrogen fuel cell buses and fueling facilities at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Plans call for two to five buses that will use hydrogen made from water electrolysis using several renewable electric power sources.

**Media interest:** None

**Program contact:** Peter Devlin, 202-586-4905

***Office of Industrial Technologies Program***

**U.S. Steel Industry Reaches New Milestone in Energy Efficiency.** The U.S. steel industry reduced energy intensity per ton of steel shipped by 33 percent since 1990, representing a further improvement over the 29 percent reduction realized in 2006, the American Iron and Steel Institute reported. Also, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions/ton of steel shipped have been reduced more than the 7 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions noted in the Kyoto Protocol. ITP has assisted the steel industry in establishing these milestones in energy efficiency by introducing eight new energy efficient technologies to the steel industry over the last eight years, and by conducting Save Energy Now assessments at 23 U.S. steel mills – identifying energy savings representing 10 percent of the energy costs at these facilities.

**Media Interest:** Trade press worldwide  
**Program Contact:** Gideon Varga, 202-586-0082

***Save Energy Now Industrial Plant Energy Assessment Program Continues to Yield Large Results Nationwide, 2009.*** Since the inception of the Industrial Technology Program *Save Energy Now* initiative in 2006, started in response to spiraling energy price increases; 1955 large, medium, and small facility industrial energy savings assessments have been completed. With 1769 assessed plants reporting results, a staggering 145 trillion BTUs of potential energy savings (equating to 9.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions savings,) have been identified, resulting in a potential dollar savings of \$1.1 billion. This is the equivalent of energy use in 1.6 million homes. So far in 2009, 37 plant assessments have been completed and an additional 500 more plants are planned to be completed over the remainder of the year.

**Media Interest:** National  
**Program Contact:** Jim Quinn, 202-586-5725

***Office of Solar Energy Technologies Program***

**Dedication of Plextronics Manufacturing Facility, Pittsburgh, PA, Jan. 27.** Program Manager John Lushetsky attended the dedication of Plextronics new PV manufacturing facility in Pittsburgh. The company develops materials and process technologies for the printed electronics market, and has developed a ready-to-use organic PV ink that can be printed onto substrates. Plextronics is funded under the Solar America Initiative's Incubator Project, which assists in the scale-up of promising technologies which have already been proven on a small laboratory scale.

**Media Interest:** Local press  
**Program Contact:** John Lushetsky, 202-287-1685

**Pittsburgh, a Solar America City, Sponsors Training Workshop, Jan. 26.** The City of Pittsburgh sponsored a Solar America Cities training workshop on solar hot water and photovoltaics. Opening remarks were given by Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, State Senator Jim Ferlo, and Market Transformation team lead Tom Kimbis, who presented the mayor with Pittsburgh's Solar America City road sign. Mayor Ravenstahl announced that one

of Pittsburgh's first steps toward a renewable energy future would be installing a solar hot water system on a city firehouse in 2009.

**Media Interest:** Local press

**Program Contact:** Tom Kimbis, 202-586-7055

***Office of Vehicle Technologies Program***

**2009 Washington Auto Show.** The Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Transportation will have a joint display on the main floor of the Washington Auto Show, held at the Washington Convention Center, February 3 – 8, 2009. The Washington Auto Show is an excellent forum to promote all three agencies' objectives and to showcase their most recent achievements. The Washington Auto Show is seen by the auto industry as the "public policy" show, and is used to highlight the issues that impact the entire automotive landscape. David Rodgers, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is scheduled to speak at two press conferences during the Public Policy/Press Day on February 3. Visitors to the DOE /EPA/DOT display area will be able to interact with DOE employees, witness the newest advancements in vehicle technology first hand, and learn more about the latest in advanced automotive technology research. The Automotive Technology Theater, the main aspect of the display, will provide a backdrop for live presentations, as well as a video loop of exciting automotive technologies and achievements of the three agencies.

**Media Interest:** Local, National, International, Trade

**Program Contact:** Kenneth Howden, 202-586-3613

***Office of Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program***

**Weatherization Assistance Program's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 27.** OWIP Weatherization Assistance Program's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to add the U.S. Territories to the Program was published in the Federal Register on Monday, December 29, 2008. The NOPR public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, in Room 5E-081 from 9 am to Noon.

**Media Interest:** Local press

**Program Contact:** Jean M. Diggs, 202-586-8506

***Office of Wind and Hydropower Program***

**Michigan Electric Cooperative Selected for Wind Award.** The Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will recognize Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative ("Wolverine") as the 2008 Wind Cooperative of the Year at the NRECA TechAdvantage Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 14, 2009. This eighth annual award was created in conjunction with the NRECA to recognize electric cooperative wind power pioneers and leaders. Wolverine worked with project developer and owner, John Deere, to address all transmission and interconnection issues, and enter into a power purchase agreement for

the full output of the 49 MW, \$94M project. Michigan is a programmatic priority state and the project will help to achieve both a Joule milestone and the state's new Renewable Portfolio Standard.

**Media Interest:** Trade, Industry

**Program Contact:** Brian Connor, 202-586-3756

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

Nothing to report that rises to Secretarial attention.

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**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 during this reporting period.

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

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**ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**  
Nothing to report

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**II. Departmental News**

**Presentation to National Academy of Sciences Committee on Climate, Energy and National Security.** On January 29, Acting Administrator Gruenspecht discussed the U.S. and global energy outlook and related resource issues with the committee, which was chaired by NAS President Ralph Cicerone.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Patty Breed, EI-3, 586-2510

**EIA Releases New Website for International Energy Statistics.** On January 26, 2009, EIA staff launched a new website for the dissemination of international energy data.

This website allows the user to request energy data by country, region, fuel, and flow, and displays the results in a customized table which can then be downloaded as an Excel spreadsheet. The data included in the new website comprises all of the former International Energy Annual (IEA) and the International Petroleum Monthly (IPM). The website is a marked improvement over simple spreadsheets posted on the web. Future plans call for integrating the dynamic tables with the Country Energy Profiles.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Joseph Ayoub, EI-64, 586-8994

**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**

**EIA Releases January 2009 Monthly Energy Review (MER):** The January 2009 MER, EIA's primary report of recent energy statistics, is now on the Web at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/mer>. Compared with 2007, estimated crude oil and natural gas plant liquids production in 2008 fell by 1 percent; petroleum net imports fell by 8

percent; and petroleum consumption fell by 6 percent.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Ryan Repice, EI-64, 586-5828

**Cost and Quality of Fuels Released:** According to Cost and Quality of Fuels 2006-2007, released by the Energy Information Administration, total coal receipts over all sectors fell by 2.3 percent in 2007 from 2006, and total petroleum receipts fell 12.5 percent. Natural gas receipts, however, increased by 7.9 percent during the same period. The price of all fossil fuels increased in 2007. The cost of natural gas at electric power plants in 2007 increased 2.4 percent to \$7.11 per MMBtu. The cost of petroleum increased 15.1 percent, from \$6.23 per MMBtu in 2006 to \$7.17 MMBtu in 2007. This increase was caused by increased global demand for petroleum and tight supply. The 2007 delivered cost of coal increase 4.7 percent, from \$1.69 per MMBtu in 2006 to \$1.77 per MMBtu in 2007. This marks the seventh straight year that coal prices have increased.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Marie Rinkoski Spangler, EI-53, 586-2446

**Electric Sales and Revenue 2007 Released:** This annual report provides State totals for sales, revenue, customer counts, average retail price and average monthly bills for 2007. In 2007, the average retail price of electricity for all customers increased to 9.13 cents per kilowatthour (kWh), an increase of 2.6 percent over 2006. The report can be viewed on the Internet at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/esr/esr\\_sum.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/esr/esr_sum.html).

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Karen McDaniel, EI-53, 202-586-4280

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

January 30, 2009

### I. Schedule

~~Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will be in the office February 2-6, 2009.~~

### II. Key Departmental News

**Positive Feedback Received from New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau Unannounced Inspection at WIPP:** On January 21-22, the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau (Enforcement Division) conducted an unannounced WIPP facility inspection. Areas inspected included satellite accumulation areas; less-than-90-day storage areas; Panel 4; CH Bay; RH Bay; surface and underground maintenance shops; and parking area units. There were no findings or concerns identified. The inspectors' closeout comments commended the facility's condition and quality of record-keeping.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Dave Moody, 575-234-7300

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Environmental Stewardship Award, Portsmouth:** Each year, field offices nominate outstanding projects for the Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Environmental Stewardship Award. In FY 2008, several sites accomplished pollution prevention and sustainable environmental stewardship projects. A select few of these sites were nominated for the Best-in-Class Award competition. The "R-114 Coolant Recycling at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant" project has received an Environmental Management (EM) Best-in-Class Award. In addition, the "X-749/X-120 Area Groundwater Optimization Project" has been selected as an EM High Achievement project.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** David Kozlowski, 740-897-2759

### III. Upcoming Events Or Matters Of Secretarial Interest

**Senator Bennett to Visit the Moab Site:** Senator Robert Bennett (R-Utah) will visit the Moab site for a tour on February 17, 2009.

**Media Interest:** Regional

**Program Contact:** Don Metzler, 970-257-2115

**Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen to Visit the Savannah River Site:**  
Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Minority Ranking Member on

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Appropriation, will visit the site February 5-6, 2009.

**Media Interest:** Regional

**Program Contact:** James Giusti, 803-952-7684

**First Shipments of Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste to Waste Isolation Pilot**

**Plant:** First shipments of Oak Ridge Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) are scheduled to occur in February 2009. These shipments will mark a major milestone in the removal of Transuranic Waste from the Oak Ridge Reservation. A press release will be prepared for issuance upon the first remote-handled shipment arriving at WIPP. A media event may also be considered as was the case with the first Contact-Handled shipment in September 2008.

**Media Interest:** Local

**Program Contact:** Bill McMillan, 865-241-6426

**Workshop with Tribal Nations on the Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste Environmental Impact Statement (GTCC EIS):**

As part of its enhanced consultation approach, the Office of Regulatory Compliance plans to hold a 2-1/2 day workshop with representatives from 29 Tribal Nations/Organizations during February 10-11, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the GTCC EIS. The purpose of the workshop is to brief Tribes on the preliminary Draft EIS, obtain their input on technical and cultural issues, and provide guidance to them on the opportunity to submit narratives on their unique perspectives regarding the Department of Energy sites being analyzed in the GTCC EIS. The narratives will then be included in the Draft EIS (scheduled for issuance in May 2009) and can be updated or expanded upon, as Tribal Nations wish, in the Final EIS (scheduled for issuance in June 2010). The workshop and narrative approach are modeled after successful approaches used for the Yucca Mountain and Nevada Test Site environmental impact statements. Las Vegas was selected as the workshop location because it is central to the 29 Tribe Nations identified for consultation on the GTCC EIS.

**Media Interest:** Low

**Program Contact:** James Joyce, 301-903-2151

**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**

**Grant Extension for Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and Environment, Paducah:** A \$2.4M grant extension, prepared by the Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office for the Kentucky Research Consortium for Energy and Environment (KRCEE), has been

approved. KRCEE is a university research consortium located at the University of Kentucky that was created to support the U.S. Department of Energy efforts to remediate the environment at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) and surrounding areas. The grant extension is for the period ending September 30, 2010.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Rich Bonczek, 859-219-4051

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**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Der**

February 18                      Washington, DC speaking at the Coal Industry Advisory Board (CIAB) Associates Meeting at the National Mining Association.

February 21-25                  Tokyo, Japan speaking at the Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth (RITE) International Zero Emission Coal (IZEC) Workshop 2009.

**II. Key Departmental News**

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**NETL Assists India in Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions.** With technical support from Storm Technologies, Inc., a U.S. utility combustion performance improvement consultant, and NTPC, Ltd., India's largest power generator, NETL uncovered a number of operational deficiencies at two power plants operated by Indian state utilities that if corrected would avoid emitting approximately 176,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Deficiencies, such as air leakage into the furnace, inadequate insulation, improper location of sensors, coal leakage from pulverizers, fugitive emissions around the boiler, and steam leaks, were found at the Kolaghat plant of the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited and the Ropar plant of the Punjab State Electricity Board. The initial operational improvements completed at one of the six coal-fired units at Ropar will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by about 12,000 tons over the next year. NETL is managing power plant reviews under the Power Generation and Transmission Task Force of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate as part of the Task Force's flagship Power Generation Best Practices Project. These reviews show how U.S. best practices can regain and maintain the design efficiency of existing Indian coal-fired power plants, improving environmental performance at little or no capital cost.

**Program Contact:** Scott Smouse, 412/386-5725

**NETL Team Writes Book Chapter on New Sensor Technology.** Collaborators at NETL and the University of Pittsburgh have prepared an invited chapter for the book, *Trends in Photonics 2008*, edited by University of Sydney Professor John Canning. The chapter, titled "Photonic-Bandgap-Fiber Sensors for Gas Detection," summarizes results of recent NETL work completed under the NETL University Research Initiative on developing fast-response gas sensors for power generation applications. The book will be produced by Research Signpost, publisher of more than 2,000 high quality review books written by eminent scientists at major laboratories around the world.

**Program Contact:** Steven Woodruff, 304/285-4175

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

None

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

None

**V. Press Inquiries**

None

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**VI. FOIA Requests**

None

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

None

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**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

No leave or travel plans.

**II. Departmental News**

**SUPREME COURT RULES THAT SWU IMPORTS ARE SUBJECT TO ANTI-DUMPING LAWS**

United States v. Eurodif (S. Ct.). The Supreme Court held that the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit erred when it rejected the Department of Commerce's conclusion that low-enriched uranium imported pursuant to separative work unit ("SWU") transactions is subject to the anti-dumping duty statute. DOE joined with Commerce and the Departments of State and Defense in seeking certiorari. The United States' petition asserted that, if left undisturbed, the Federal Circuit decision would threaten U.S. foreign policy and national security interests by undermining the United States' Highly Enriched Uranium Agreement with the Russian Federation, severely compromise the ongoing economic viability of USEC, the only domestic entity that enriches uranium, and increase the United States' dependence on foreign energy resources. (M. Johnston, GC-30, 586-8700)

**COURT OF APPEALS AFFIRMS DISMISSAL OF MARSHALL ISLANDERS' CLAIMS**

The People of Bikini v. United States (Fed. Cir.) and John v. United States (Fed. Cir.). The court of appeals affirmed the judgments of the Court of Federal Claims dismissing the complaints in these cases. The court of appeals held there is no jurisdiction over the Takings claims as the language of Section 177 of the Compact of Free Association and the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 represent "not only the United States' removal of its consent to be sued in the courts over these claims but also the claimants' waiver of their right to sue over these claims in any U.S. court." The court also determined that espousal of the claims by the Government of the Marshall Islands on behalf of its nationals was a political question beyond the power of a U.S. court to review. These are companion cases which raise claims addressing the legal responsibility of the United States for the post-World War II testing of nuclear explosives on Bikini and Enewetak Islands in the Marshall Island group. The trial court found that it lacked subject matter jurisdiction. Its rulings were based on the statute of limitations, as well as the doctrines of collateral estoppel, affirmative withdrawal of the court's jurisdiction, and the presence of a political question. (A. Fingeret, GC-31, 586-5678 and A. Mitrani, GC-31, 586-5550)

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

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

**V. Press Inquiries**

**VI. FOIA Requests**

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**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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

**January 29, 2008**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Key Departmental News**  
Nothing to report in this area.

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

**Martin Luther King Commemorative Program:** The Department held its annual celebration to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Wednesday, January 28, 2009. Secretary Chu spoke on how Dr. King had affected his life personally. The keynote speaker was Hazel R. O'Leary, former Secretary of Energy from 1993-1997, and the first African-American woman to serve as Secretary. The former Secretary talked to employees about the value of diversity, reaching back to mentor students, and working together with each other. Due to weather conditions that prevented some employees from attending, the program will be re-broadcast and shown on in-house cable for Forrestal and Germantown employees.

**Media Interest:** None

**Contact Person:** Thomasina Mathews, 202-586-2657

**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**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Cases Received:**

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received two new cases: 1) a request by an individual that a hearing be conducted under 10 CFR Part 710 to determine his eligibility to hold a DOE security clearance; and 2) an appeal filed under the Freedom of Information Act, 10 CFR 1004.1.

**Hearings Conducted:**

During the previous week, an OHA Hearing Officer conducted a personnel security hearing (10 CFR Part 710) in Las Vegas, NV.

**Decisions Issued:**

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**Personnel Security (10 CFR Part 710)**

On January 29, 2009, a Hearing Officer issued a decision in which he determined that an individual's access authorization should not be restored. In reaching this determination, the Hearing Officer found that the individual had mitigated security concerns associated with his admitted prior use of marijuana. The individual presented evidence establishing that his use of marijuana was sporadic and occurred a number of years in the past. However, the Hearing Officer determined that the individual failed to mitigate the security concerns with regard his failure to disclose his prior marijuana use on several security questionnaires and his attempt to deceive a polygraph examiner concerning illegal drug use. The individual's falsifications extended through a significant period of time and he had only fully disclosed of prior marijuana use to DOE within one year of the hearing. OHA Case No. TSO-0679 (Richard Cronin, 287-1589)

On January 27, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision that an individual's suspended security clearance should not be restored. The individual became a naturalized United States citizen in 1999. In connection with his initial application for a clearance, the individual told the Local Security Office (LSO) that he had no intention of exercising foreign citizenship. Nonetheless, the individual later acquired and used a foreign passport, raising a security concern about his allegiance to the United States and his trustworthiness. At the hearing, the individual testified that he used the foreign passport to sell a property in the foreign country, and that he did not realize that his use of the foreign passport constituted the exercise of foreign citizenship. He documented that he had since renounced foreign citizenship and relinquished the foreign passport. The Hearing Officer concluded, however, that the individual had not resolved the concern about his trustworthiness. In addressing the individual's contention that he did not know that the use of a foreign passport would constitute the exercise of foreign citizenship, the

Hearing Officer found that a reasonable person would have known, at a minimum, that such conduct warranted consultation with the LSO. OHA Case No. TS0-0667 (Janet N. Freimuth, 287-1439)

On January 23, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which he determined that an individual's request for a DOE access authorization should be granted. The individual had a long history of illegal drug use, which ended over six years ago. One area of particular concern to the local security office occurred in 1989, when the individual was 19 years old: he abstained from marijuana for the purpose of obtaining a security clearance, and then resumed marijuana use while holding that clearance. At the hearing, the individual presented testimony and documentary evidence in an effort to mitigate each of the local security office's concerns. After weighing the evidence, the Hearing Officer determined that the individual had established that he has matured with the passage of time and life experiences, and no longer employs the same poor judgment he used as a student. Accordingly, the Hearing Officer concluded that the individual's access authorization should be granted. OHA Case No. TSO-0681 (William M. Schwartz, 287-1522).

On January 23, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which she determined that an individual's access authorization should not be restored. In reaching this conclusion, the Hearing Officer found that the individual had failed to mitigate the security concerns associated with his diagnosis of Alcohol-Related Disorder Not Otherwise Specified. The Hearing Officer noted that a DOE consulting psychologist had recommended that, in order to show rehabilitation from his alcohol-related disorder, the individual should achieve two full years of abstinence from alcohol combined with alcohol treatment. In addition, a substance abuse professional recommended that the individual attend substance abuse education classes and self-help groups with an emphasis on drug and alcohol abuse. The Hearing Officer found, as of the time of the hearing, that the individual had not undergone any of the recommended alcohol-related treatment, counseling or education, and was far short of achieving the two years of sobriety necessary to demonstrate adequate evidence of rehabilitation or reformation. OHA Case No. TSO-0660 (Avery Webster, 287-1324)

**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Fred Brown, [fred.brown@hq.doe.gov](mailto:fred.brown@hq.doe.gov), 287-1545

## **OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Title IX Compliance Reviews:** The OCR is currently in the process of coordinating Title IX on-site visits with North Carolina State University, the University of Central Florida, and Arizona State University. The Office is currently working on finalizing the report for a compliance review previously conducted at the University of Washington-Seattle. Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351.

**Title IX Training:** On January 27, 2009, staff members of the OCR conducted Title IX training for DOE EEO/Diversity Managers, staff members of the Office of Hearings and

Appeals, and other invited individuals. The training encompassed all aspects of Title IX reviews, including information on upcoming university onsite reviews. Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

**Diversity Framework:** On January 29, 2009, staff members of OCR met with DOE EEO/Diversity Managers and members of the Office of Human Capital Management to discuss the Department's strategic framework for diversity, and the coordination of the Department's EEO, diversity and inclusion initiatives. Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

**Limited English Proficiency:** The Office of Civil Rights is in the process of reviewing limited English proficiency (LEP) self-assessments and certification forms from Departmental Elements, as well as meeting with representatives from Departmental Elements to discuss their LEP plans. Contact: Sharon Wyatt, x6-2256.

**Diversity Managers Meeting:** On January 27-29, 2009, the Office of Civil Rights conducted a meeting of EEO and Diversity Managers department-wide to discuss issues of common concern. The Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer addressed the group. Contact: Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687.

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**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Bill Lewis, [bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov](mailto: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**

**January 30, 2009**

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

**January 27:** Met with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) regarding HSS activities. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior HSS staff accompanied.

**January 27:** Provided a briefing to House Energy and Commerce Committee Staff on results of Independent Oversight Cyber Security Inspections. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior HSS staff accompanied.

**February 4:** Meet with Naval Reactors Headquarters Staff at the Washington Naval Shipyard to discuss topics of mutual interest. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior HSS staff are scheduled to 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**

**Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC - East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Security Enforcement Investigation:** In cooperation with the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and the Office of Public Affairs (PA), HSS is resuming the security enforcement investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the removal of classified matter from ETTP. HSS met with the U.S. Attorney (Eastern District of Tennessee), Assistant U.S. Attorney, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) lead investigator, and DOE Oak Ridge Office management this week (January 26) to coordinate the HSS security enforcement investigation activities scheduled to be conducted at ETTP February 23-26.

**Management Impact:** The resumption of this investigation follows the closure of the associated criminal case.

**Media Interest:** The closure of the criminal case regarding the removal of classified matter from ETTP was the subject of recent media attention.

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

**DOE Affirmative Procurement and Recycling Report:** In cooperation with the DOE Office of Procurement, HSS anticipates submitting the DOE report on affirmative procurement and recycling to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) February 9.

**Management Impact:** The report is required by Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, and is based upon data provided by DOE field and program elements.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

#### **Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers (HRRDR) Course:**

1. HSS is scheduled to conduct a 4-day HRRDR course at the Forrestal Building the week of February 9 for declassification reviewers from various Government agencies.
2. HSS conducted a four-day HRRDR course for 17 declassification reviewers from the Missile Defense Agency at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL, this week (January 26-30).

**Management Impact:** These activities support DOE's responsibility to assist other agencies to identify potential Restricted Data (RD) and Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) information and prevent the inadvertent release of sensitive nuclear technologies.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

#### **Independent Oversight Activities:**

1. National Training Center (NTC) Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted February 10-11.
2. NNSA Service Center Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted February 10-11.
3. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Nuclear Safety Follow-Up Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were initiated this week and are scheduled to be conducted through next week (January 25 – February 6).
4. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Environment, Safety and Health Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were initiated this week and are scheduled to be conducted through next week (January 26 – February 6).
5. Sandia National Laboratories – New Mexico (SNL-NM) Emergency Management Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were initiated this week and are scheduled to be conducted through next week (January 26 – February 4).
6. Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence (IN) Savannah River Site (SRS) Field Intelligent Element (FIE) Physical Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (January 26-29).
7. Savannah River Site (SRS) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were conducted this week (January 26-26).

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:**

- January 27: The Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer and senior staff briefed the Board on HSS activities.
- January 30: The Chief of Nuclear Safety updated the Board on Recommendation 2007-1, *Safety Related in Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Materials*, implementation plan activities.

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

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report

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**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

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**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report

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**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

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**VI. FOIA Requests**

Date of Request: 01/21/09

Requester: Jerry W. Means

Subject Matter: Medical, Personnel and Employment Records.

Date of Request: 1/05/09

Requester: Jerome J. Heimbrock

Subject Matter: Medical and Doseage records

Date of Request: 1/27/09

Requester: John Hurley

Subject Matter: Occupational and Exposure History Records.

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Award of Task Order for EERE Office of Solar Energy Technologies Program (SETP):** On January 22, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a task order to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). NAS will conduct a study of selected state and regional programs in order to identify best practices with regard to their goals, structures, instruments, modes of operation, synergies across private and public programs, funding levels, and evaluation results. The results of the study will assist the Solar Energy Technologies Program in reaching its 2015 goal of making solar electricity from photovoltaic cost-competitive with conventional grid electricity. The period of performance is from January 22, 2009 through September 30, 2009 at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Brandon Powell, (202) 287-1434

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**Award of Order for Support to Loan Guarantee Program:** On January 22, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded an order to R.W. Beck, Inc. to provide independent engineering consulting services to DOE's Loan Guarantee Program Office. R.W. Beck will provide an expert, independent verification of the viability of the engineering, technical and construction aspects of the loan guarantee application submitted by Beacon Power Corporation, as well as a report on Beacon's progress in constructing and operating a 20 MW flywheel-based frequency regulation plant designed to enhance electricity grid stabilization and optimization. The award will provide such services through September 30, 2010. The estimated cost of the services is \$523,085.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Richard Bonnell, (202) 287-1508

**The Office of Procurement and Assistance Management completed a Procurement Management Review (PMR) of the Idaho Operations Office:** On January 16, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management completed its review of contract operations at the Idaho Operations Office (ID). The review consisted of a rigorous contract file review and interviews with both contracts and requirement personnel. Areas reviewed included, mission and organization, policies and procedures, acquisition planning, contract solicitation/selection procedures, pricing, human resources, property post-award functions and management of the contacting activity. The ID Contract Management Division is meeting the challenging mission requirements of the Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Clean-up Project and Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project. However; management attention is necessary on the award and administration of

other contracts and General Services Administration task orders. In addition, increased emphasis is also needed in Policy and Procedures.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** William S. Reed, (202) 287-1349

**Quarterly Water Testing:** Quarterly water testing was conducted at the Forrestal and Germantown Child Development Centers. Samples were tested in accordance with EPA protocol and were analyzed for lead concentration. All samples were found to be below the detection limit of 5ppb. This sampling is a part of our ongoing proactive program to ensure the safety and health of the children at the center.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Cherylyne Williams, (202) 586-1005

**Forrestal and Germantown Cafeteria Request-for-Proposals Pre-bid Meeting:** A pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders was held at Forrestal and Germantown on Tuesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 29, respectively. Eight companies were represented at the meeting. A total of 27 individuals from these contractors were in attendance. The GSA Contracting Officer provided a briefing on the contracting concept, the scope of work, and the specifications to allow bidders to ascertain the complexities of services to be performed at Forrestal and Germantown.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Gerri M. Bullock, (202) 586-4459

**EVMS Certification update for WRPS:** On January 21, 2009, representatives of the Office from Engineering & Construction Management (OECM) met with representatives from Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC (WRPS) to begin the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Certification process as mandated by DOE Order 413.3A. WRPS began executing its contract at DOE's Hanford, WA site on 10/1/08. The EVMS Certification is targeted for completion by close of FY 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Jim Fountain, (202) 586-4342

**EVMS Certification update for CH2M HILL PRC:** On January 22, 2009, representatives from the Office of Engineering & Construction Management (OECM) met with representatives from CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company to begin the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Certification process as mandated by DOE Order 413.3A. CH2M Hill PRC began executing its contract at DOE's Hanford, Washington, site on 10/1/08. The EVMS Certification is targeted for completion by close of FY 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

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

**EVMS Certification update for UT-Battelle:** On January 28-29, 2009, representatives from the Office of Engineering & Construction Management (OECM) met with representatives from UT-Battelle to conclude the multi-month Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Certification process as mandated by DOE Order 413.3A.

The EVMS Certification is targeted for completion in February 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

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

**EVMS Certification update for SRNS:** On January 30, 2009, representatives from the Office of Engineering & Construction Management (OECM) met with representatives from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC (SRNS) to begin the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) Certification process as mandated by DOE Order 413.3A. SRNS began executing its contract at DOE's Savannah River, SC site on August , 2008. The EVMS Certification is targeted for completion by close of FY 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Jim Fountain, (202) 586-4342

- 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**
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**OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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

**II. Departmental News**

**Interim Manager is Named for Idaho Operations Office:** Dennis Miotla, the Office of Nuclear Energy's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Power Deployment, has been named the interim manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office, while the Department recruits a permanent manager. Mr. Miotla will succeed Elizabeth Sellers, who served as Idaho Operations Office Manager since April 2003. Ms. Sellers plans to retire from Federal service in February 2009.

**Media Interest:** Yes – in the local press

**Program Contact:** Tim Jackson, DOE-ID, 208-526-8484

**Review of University Programs Research and Development (R&D) Request for Pre-Applications (RPA):** The review of R&D pre-applications responding to the Office of Nuclear Energy's (NE) University Programs R&D solicitation began on January 22, 2009. Technical Integration Office representatives and Federal project managers are reviewing 426 R&D pre-applications for projects to support major NE programs, including the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative, Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems Initiative, Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative, Light Water Reactor Sustainability Program, and Plutonium-238 Development Program. These rankings will be submitted to the final reviewers for selection of pre-applications, which will be included in the request for full proposals. The R&D pre-applications selection review completion date is scheduled for February 4, 2009.

**Media Interest:** No

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

**Proposed U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group (CNEWG) Meeting:** Following a Department of Energy (DOE) staff trip to India in January 2009, Nuclear Energy representatives have begun to prepare and organize a U.S.-India CNEWG meeting, to be held in April 2009 at the Idaho National Laboratory. All preparatory work is being coordinated with the representatives at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, India.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Mary Gillespie, NE-6, 202-586-3698

**NE-NRC Visit to the United Kingdom (UK):** Office Nuclear Energy staff will accompany Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials on a visit to the United Kingdom (UK) in early February 2009 for discussions with their UK nuclear energy regulators.

The purpose of the visit is to gain an understanding of the UK's licensing and regulatory practices related to fuel cycle facilities. Tours of the Sellafield reprocessing facility and Capenhurst enrichment facility will also be included. The U.S. group will be briefed on UK approaches to nuclear criticality safety, material control, and accountability.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Dan Stout, NE-51, 301-903-3070

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**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 items to report

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**NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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On February 5-6, ~~Kenneth Baker, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation~~, will be in Russia, along with NNSA staff, to participate in a Joint Program Managers Executive Committee meeting regarding the Elimination of Weapons-Grade Plutonium Production Project in Zheleznogorsk.

**II. Departmental News**

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**Potential Beryllium Exposure at LANL:** In November 2008, it was discovered that beryllium levels in the TA-41 tunnel exceeded the 10CFR850.30 housekeeping limits. TA-41 is normally an uninhabited classified space used to store equipment and models. Access to the tunnel was immediately restricted. A plan was developed to bound the timeframe when this non-beryllium work space was last surveyed and the November 2008 samples. Visitor logs were also recovered to determine who had been in the tunnel and the nature of their work. A total of 1890 personnel were identified to have been in the tunnel from July 2001 to November 2008. One thousand six hundred fifty were classified as visitors and the remaining 240 were classified as having done work in the tunnel. Notification of the personnel is underway, a press release has been distributed, and notifications to the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and selected staffs are complete. Medical screening for beryllium sensitivity is being offered by the laboratory. It is expected that very few personnel may be affected by this exposure because of the nature of their duties.

**Media Interest:** High.

**POC:** Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., NA-10, 202-586-2181.

**Event: Supreme Court Ruling Overturns Precedent Potentially Harmful to U.S.-Russian Nonproliferation Agreement:** On January 26, the Supreme Court overturned the 2005 U.S. Court of Appeals ruling on the "Eurodif" case, which held that imports of low enriched uranium (LEU) may not be subject to U.S. trade law, thereby exempting the exporter from antidumping duties. The 2005 ruling complicated the 1992 U.S.-Russia Suspension Agreement, as it made possible the unrestricted entry of Russian LEU into the U.S. market. An interagency effort brought the case to the Supreme Court, citing the threat posed to national security, because unrestricted access to the U.S. market would compete directly with LEU downblended from Russian weapons-derived highly enriched uranium (HEU). Since 1993, DOE/NNSA has been cooperating with Russia to irreversibly eliminate 500 metric tons of excess HEU from dismantled nuclear weapons by converting it into fuel for U.S. commercial power reactors. This week's Supreme Court ruling again limits the entry of Russian LEU into the U.S. market.

**Media Interest:** Moderate.

**POC:** Elena Thomas, NA-24, 202-586-9990.

**Event: First Meeting of Joint Program Managers Executive Committee to be held in Moscow:** On February 5-6, NNSA's Elimination of Weapons-Grade Plutonium Production Program will hold a meeting chaired by Kenneth Baker, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation's Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator, and Ivan Kamenskikh, Deputy Director of Rosatom, to resolve outstanding implementation issues related to the pace of construction on the Zheleznogorsk Plutonium Production Elimination Project and Russian plans to shutdown the ADE-2 reactor, the last plutonium production reactor operating in Russia.

**Media Interest:** Low.

**POC:** Trisha Dedik, NA-23, 202-586-4460.

**Event: Response to Environmental Protection Agency Issuance of Enforcement**

**Action:** On January 20, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) Manager responded to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, letter of January 6, citing authority under the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) signed between DOE, EPA, and the State of California the right to assess fines and penalties against the Department for non-operation of ground water treatment facilities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Main Site. The LSO response noted the receipt of the EPA letter and invoked dispute resolution under Section XXXIII.B of the FFA. On January 12, subsequent to this letter, there was email correspondence from LSO General Counsel to EPA General Counsel requesting a 15-day extension to the day of receipt of the EPA letter to allow the parties of the FFA to attempt to informally resolve the dispute by February 11. The EPA has agreed by email to the requested extension.

**Media Interest:** Local.

**POC:** Kathy Angleberger, NA-50, 301-903-8170.

**Event: National Ignition Facility (NIF) Line Replacement Unit Installation Nears**

**Completion:** On January 26, the last NIF Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) was installed. Completion of the NIF LRU installation marks the close of a major element for the project, with remaining project effort focused primarily on component and system qualification and commissioning. Removal and replacement of LRUs for maintenance purposes will be a normal part of facility operations and allows for maintenance of these complex components with minimal impact on shot operations.

**Media Interest:** None.

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

**Event: Book Publication Includes Y-12 Plant-Directed Research, Development and Demonstration (PDRD) Nanomaterial Results:**

A recently issued book entitled "Machining with Nanomaterials" published by Springer Publishing Group includes results from a Y-12 PDRD project with Purdue University. The PDRD project developed thin film superlattice layer coatings for machining materials in an environmentally conscious manner by eliminating the need for cooling and lubrication by fluids. At the ever increasing cutting speeds being used today, these coatings also extend tool life, thereby reducing machining costs.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** James Hinderer, Y12-30, 865-576-5661.

**Event: Memorandum of Agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** A memorandum of agreement has been completed between the NNSA Nevada Site Office (NSO) and the ICE San Diego Office for the planning and execution of force-on-force exercises at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). This agreement allows ICE personnel to be utilized in an adversary role, when available, resulting in Wackenhut Services, Inc., quarterly exercise requirements being met at a minimum cost to NNSA.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Robert Friedrichs, NSO, 702-295-1860.

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

**Event: Atomic Weapons Establishment Visit:** On February 2-6, members of the Office of Defense Nuclear Security will host their counterparts of the UK Ministry of Defense/Atomic Weapons Establishment (MOD/AWE), in Washington, DC, for a meeting regarding the U.S.-UK sharing of best practices in the area of nuclear security operations, with the ultimate goal of improving their respective security programs. The MOD would also like to meet with representatives from the Office of Health, Safety and Security as well as the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** NA-70, MOD, HSS, DTRA.

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**Event: 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl:** On February 6-7, thirty-two teams from twenty-four high schools in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah will compete for the chance to represent their region in the National Bowl. The competition will take place at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV. NSO Federal and contractor employees will support the event as scientific judges, moderators, scorekeepers, and timekeepers.

**Media Interest:** Possible, local.

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

**Event: Nuclear Material Handling & Measurement Activity at NTS:** During the week of February 2, the Management Self Assessment is currently scheduled to begin. National Security Technologies, LLC, Fissile Material Handling capability at the Device Assembly Facility remains on schedule to stand up operations by March 31.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Lisa Mueller, NSO, 702-295-7410.

**Event: B61 Executive Project Officers Group (POG) Meeting:** On December 2, 2008, the B61 POG Life Extension Study Group (LESG) met to discuss status of the B61 Life Extension Program Phase 6.2/6.2A Study. Progress on Military Characteristics development and review, program plans, and budget were presented. SNL provided concepts for integration and aircraft compatibility. On February 3, the next POG LESG is scheduled.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Rob McKay, NA-122.24, 505-845-5816.

**Event: FY 2008 Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) Chairman's Report to Congress:** The NWC Chairman is required to submit, through the Secretary of Energy, an annual report to Congress concerning NWC-specific nuclear weapons activities conducted by the DOE and the Department of Defense during the past fiscal year. On February 4, this report is due. On November 13, 2008 Brigadier General George and Mr. Steve Goodrum cast concurring NWC Standing and Safety Committee votes for the report.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Tim Gipe, NA-12, 202-586-7278.

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**Event: Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research:** During the week of January 26, Shot 84, with a surrogate, to dial in the velocity for the upcoming experiment using special nuclear material (SNM) occurred. On February 9, Shot 85, another surrogate, is planned to resolve issues with the X-ray window. During the week of February 23, assuming all the necessary documentation is approved, experiments using SNM will resume.

**Media Interest:** None.

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

#### **IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

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#### **V. Press Inquiries**

**Event: NNSA Public Affairs:** This week, Public Affairs (PA) responded to the national, regional, and local media inquiries on nuclear nonproliferation, Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW), Complex Transformation, and various other issues. Next week, PA will issue a press release announcing the contract to build Sequoia, the next supercomputer at LLNL.

**Media Interest:** High.

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

On January 21, Ralph Vartabedian, *Los Angeles Times* National Correspondent, inquired about a tour of NTS. On February 5, arrangements have been made for him to tour NTS and on February 6, interview NSO Environmental Management personnel.

**POC:** Kelly Snyder, NSO, 702-295-2836.

#### **VI. FOIA Requests**

**Requester:** Ray Salazar, Las Vegas, NV.

**Date of Request:** January 20.

**Subject:** Medical files, dosimeter reading, housing records, security file, equipment badge, etc.

## **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

**Event: Low-Level Waste (LLW) and Mixed (MLLW) Activity:** On January 26-29, NSO Environmental Management personnel met with State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) officials to help develop the annual grant application for the Emergency Preparedness Working Group. The Emergency Preparedness Working Group is made up of six counties surrounding the Nevada Test Site and includes: White Pine; Clark; Esmeralda; Nye; Lincoln; and, Elko counties. The projected funding for the Fiscal Year 2009 grant period will be slightly over \$600,000. NDEM is responsible for administering the grant, including financial management.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Ken Small, NSO, 702-295-1933.

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Patricia A. Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary does not have any travel or leave plans for the week beginning February 2, 2009.

**II. Key Departmental News**

**OE participates in Open Smart Grid Users Group.** On January 6, representatives from OE's National SCADA Test Bed program participated in a meeting on the Open Smart Grid Users Group sponsored by UCA International, a not-for-profit corporation focused on assisting users and vendors in the deployment of standards for real-time applications. OE presented the status of its work in developing cyber security standards for Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) applications for the Smart Grid. OE has nearly completed three projects: AMI Vendor Product Analysis, Cyber Security Procurement Language for AMI, and Testing and Assessment Methodologies for Wireless AMI Technologies.

Participants included utilities (Florida Power and Light, Consumers Energy, Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, et al), vendors, and national laboratories.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Hank Kenchington, 586-1878

**DOE/OE/NETL Issues a Multi-Year Award to PSERC.** On January 16, the National Energy Technology Laboratory awarded a five-year financial assistance award to the Arizona State University Board of Regents to operate the Power Systems Engineering Research Center (PSERC), with Dr. Vijay Vittal as the principal investigator. The award for the first year is up to \$3.75 million with a 20% cost share by PSERC. PSERC is made up of thirteen universities that perform multi-disciplinary electric power systems research and development for OE in the areas of power engineering, market economics, and environmental and regulatory issues.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Phil Overholt, 586-8110

**Department of Homeland Security Metrics Working Group.** On January 22, Dr. Kenneth Friedman attended this initial 2009 meeting where guidance for the DOE Critical Infrastructure Protection Annual Report to DHS and Metrics Development Guidance were discussed with representatives from 18 critical infrastructure sectors as well as several private sector representatives. Copies of the draft guidance documents are available upon request. The DOE Annual Report is due to DHS in final by June 1, 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Kenneth Friedman, 586-0379

**Smart Grid Information Clearinghouse Development.** Based on input from a smart grid stakeholder meeting in December, the draft solicitation topic area on establishment of a Smart Grid Information Clearinghouse has been developed and is going through procurement review by NETL. A funding opportunity announcement is being planned for release in February, with the selection of a winning application by April. The Clearinghouse will serve as the first-stop shop for public smart grid information and will also direct website users to other sources for additional information. Development of a Smart Grid Information Clearinghouse has been identified by the FERC/NARUC Smart Grid Collaborative as a high priority with significant benefits to the smart grid community. In addition, in its recently released report entitled "Smart Grid: Enabler of the New Energy Economy," the DOE Electricity Advisory Committee recommended that the DOE Smart Grid program act as a clearinghouse of global Smart Grid information via web-based, self-service tools. This Clearinghouse development will be key to fulfilling that recommendation.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Eric Lightner, 586-8130

**Minnesota Senate Briefed on Energy Storage.** On January 22, the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the Minnesota State Senate held a hearing in Minneapolis on potential legislation to enable wider deployment of energy storage technology in the State. Dr. Imre Gyuk briefed the group on the current state of energy storage technology and applications as well as institutional barriers. A number of possible approaches were discussed, such as capacity tax credits or a 5% storage portfolio standard. A sizable audience including representatives of the Public Utilities Commission, area utilities, and local technology providers were in attendance.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Imre Gyuk, 586-1482

**Meeting of DOE Staff and FERC Officials to Discuss Long-Term Analyses of Electric Infrastructure Requirements.** On January 22, staff from two DOE offices, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, with Commissioner Jon Wellinghoff and three of his staff to discuss DOE's plans for a study to examine technological and other problems associated with relying on renewables for 80% of U.S. electricity needs by 2050. Commissioner Wellinghoff is very interested in the study. After a new FERC chair has been named, FERC will be able to tell DOE how much FERC would like to be involved in the study and who the appropriate points of contact at FERC will be. Other current studies of future infrastructure requirements were discussed briefly, and the need to maintain coordination among these studies was noted.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** David Meyer, 586-3188

**Department of Homeland Security, Chemical Sector-Specific Metrics Working Group, at the American Chemical Council, Arlington VA.** On January 29, Dr. Kenneth Friedman briefed 30 chemical industry companies and trade organization representatives on DOE's approach to sector-specific security metrics for the Oil and Natural Gas Sector. Seven of the companies and trade organizations were from the oil

and natural gas sector. Denbow from the American Gas Association also briefed the group from an industry perspective. DOE's work is being used as the basis for the chemical sector moving forward.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Kenneth Friedman, 586-0379

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

Nothing to Report

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**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

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to Report.

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**II. Department News**

**Japan:** PI-32 has received a number of requests for meetings with senior DOE officials, including Secretary Chu. On February 2, 2009, American Embassy in Japan energy attaché Ron Cherry will visit DOE to discuss the priorities for the new administration and establishment of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC). Also, during the week of February 2-6, 2009, Hiroyuki Ishige, Vice-Minister for International Affairs at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), would like to meet with Secretary Chu to discuss U.S.-Japan economic cooperation on energy and environmental areas. On Friday, February 13, 2009, Dr. Shunsuke Kondo, Chairman of Japan Atomic Energy Commission, will likely meet with the Office of Nuclear Energy's Shane Johnson to discuss U.S.-Japan nuclear energy cooperation and nuclear energy policies. Mr. Hidehiko Nishiyama, Director-General, Electricity and Gas Industry Department, METI, also requested a meeting with Acting Assistant Secretary Jonathan Shrier. PI-32 has also received a request to meet with the Secretary from the International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament.

**Contact:** Kay Thompson, 6-7997; Kimberly Ballou, 6-6029

**Media Interest:** Low

**France:** PI-32 coordinated a meeting between DOE's Solar Energy office and Philippe Lorec, Deputy Director General with the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning, on January 29, 2009. The meeting discussed U.S. policies on solar energy production projects.

**Contact:** Kim Ballou, 6-6029/Ed Rossi, 6-6142

**Media Interest:** Low

**Spain:** PI-32 is coordinating a meeting between the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) and a Spanish delegation for February 11, 2009, to discuss U.S.-Spain nuclear energy issues. PI-32 also has received a request from Spain's Minister of Industry, Tourism & Trade, Mr. Miguel Sebastián, to meet with Secretary Chu on March 18 or 19, 2009.

**Contact:** Ed Rossi, 6-6142; Kimberly Ballou, 6-6029

**Media Interest:** Low

**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.

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

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report

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**II. Key Departmental News**

**Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) Winter Meeting:** OCRWM participated in the NWTRB meeting in Las Vegas on January 28, and provided several technical presentations.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Russ Dyer, 702-794-1408

**III. Upcoming Events Or Matters Of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)**

Nothing to report

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

Nothing to report

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**V. Press Inquiries**

Janice Valverde, reporter for *BNA*, and Dee Bhambhani, *Platts* called regarding the status of spent fuel transportation to Yucca Mountain based on the release of the OCRWM National Transportation Plan.

Steve Tetreault, *Las Vegas Review Journal*, called for information about the WARN Act notices issued to project staff and to determine whether employee lay-offs are imminent.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Allen Benson, 702-794-1322

**VI. FOIA Requests**

A FOIA request, dated January 20, 2009, was received from the Boesch Law Group requesting all records pertaining to government dealings with Edlow International Company and Edlow Resources, LLC. Although they requested all documents, they are specifically interested in activity taking place in or concerning the State of California.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Jackie Chestnut, 202-586-5481

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF SCIENCE  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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

**II. Departmental News**

**Scientists Publish Complete Genetic Blueprint of Key Biofuels Crop:** Scientists at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Joint Genome Institute (JGI) and several partner institutions have published the sequence and analysis of the complete genome of sorghum, a major food and fodder plant with high potential as a bioenergy crop. The genome data will aid scientists in optimizing sorghum and other crops not only for food and fodder use, but also for biofuels production. The comparative analysis of the sorghum genome appears in the January 29 edition of the journal *Nature*. Prized for its drought resistance and high productivity, sorghum is currently the second most prevalent biofuels crop in the United States, behind corn. Grain sorghum produces the same amount of ethanol per bushel as corn while utilizing one-third less water. As the technology for producing "cellulosic" (whole plant fiber-based) biofuels matures, sorghum's rapid growth--rising from eight to 15 feet tall in one season--is likely to make it desirable as a cellulosic biofuels "feedstock."

"This is an important step on the road to the development of cost-effective biofuels made from nonfood plant fiber," said Anna C. Palmisano, DOE Associate Director of Science for Biological and Environmental Research. "Sorghum is an excellent candidate for biofuels production, with its ability to withstand drought and prosper on more marginal land. The fully sequenced genome will be an indispensable tool for researchers seeking to develop plant variants that maximize these benefits."

**Media Interest:** Yes.

**Program Contact:** Dr. Anna Palmisano, SC-23, 301-903-3251

**First-Ever Long-Term Aircraft Measurements of Clouds Launched by Office of Science's Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Program.** A long-term, aerial field campaign to sample low-altitude, liquid-water clouds began January 23, at the Southern Great Plains Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Climate Research Facility (ACRF) in Oklahoma. Currently there are large discrepancies in the radiative responses simulated by models in regions dominated by low-level cloud cover, and large areas of the globe are covered by these regions. Further, the properties of thin, low-level clouds are very sensitive to changes in aerosol loading and the aerosol effect on the reflectivity of clouds is a dominant uncertainty in radiative forcing. Different from the typical short duration aircraft campaigns, the new campaign will run for six months to obtain, for the first time, representative *in situ* statistics of cloud properties and their seasonal variations,

information needed for model improvements. The campaign will obtain representative statistics of the physical and radiative properties of low-level, liquid-water clouds to address aerosol-cloud interactions and improve cloud simulations in climate models. The ARM program is managed by the Office of Biological and Environmental Research in the Office of Science.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Dr. Wanda Ferrell, SC-23.1, 301-903-3281

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

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

**V. Press Inquiries**

The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, in coordination with the Office of Public Affairs, answered in writing questions from a reporter with Energy Washington Week about a University of Texas concept for a fusion-fission hybrid system based on a compact neutron source.

**VI. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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**SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**January 30, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

~~Kenneth E. Legg, Administrator~~

The Administrator has no leave planned for the week of February 2. The Administrator will attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, on February 15-18.

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

**II. Departmental News**

**Groundhog Job Shadow Day:** Southeastern is taking the opportunity to participate in Elbert County's "Groundhog Job Shadow Day" on February 3. Southeastern will host four (4) middle school students in this event, which is sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce and Board of Education. This event demonstrates the connection between academics and careers by introducing the students to the requirements of professions to help prepare them to join the workforce. The surrounding community also benefits from this partnership between schools and businesses because it encourages an ongoing relationship between young people and caring adults.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Carol Rice, 706-213-3822

**Visit by Solar Panel Consultant:** Southeastern is considering installation of a solar panel for demonstration and educational purposes. A representative from a local solar consulting business will meet with Southeastern on February 4 to discuss the feasibility of installing a solar panel.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Al Pless, 706-213-3847

**Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa Basin (ACT) Drought Operations:** Staff from Southeastern's Power Resources Division will participate in a conference call hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Feb 4 to discuss ongoing operations in the ACT basin.

Media Interest: No

Program Contact: Douglas Spencer, 706-213-3855

**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**

**January 29, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Jon Worthington, Administrator, February 2-3, Washington, DC  
Acting: Gary Swartzlander, 918-595-6634

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**II. Key Departmental News**

The **Monthly Operational Plan Meeting** will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma at Southwestern's Headquarters on January 29, with the Corps of Engineers. 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

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**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

January 30, 2009

## I. Schedule

Schedule for Administrator - Timothy J. Meeks

February 11-12 Sierra Nevada Region Customer Meeting, Rancho Cordova, CA

February 15-17 NRECA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

February 23-27 APPA's Legislative Rally, Washington, DC

(Acting: Tony Montoya)

## II. Departmental News

**Reclamation Releases California Reservoir Storage Data:** Reclamation released information related to current reservoir storage levels in advance of announcing preliminary water supply allocations for Central Valley Project users in February. As of January 19, storage levels in the northern five major Central Valley Project reservoirs (Shasta, Trinity, Folsom, New Melones, and San Luis) were estimated at approximately 35 percent of the 15 year average. Coupled with a 76 percent of normal snow pack, unless precipitation levels increase substantially over the rest of the rainy season, water and power operations during the upcoming spring, summer and fall seasons are anticipated to be extremely challenging. If current conditions persist, state weather forecasters are projecting that storage levels at many of California's reservoirs could potentially fall below 1977 levels, the driest year on record.

**Media Interest:** Trade and local media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**Western Facilitates Wind Energy Training:** Western staff facilitated the 4th Annual Wind Interconnection Workshop at its Electric Power Training Center January 21 - 23, 2009. The event, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and cosponsored by the American Public Power Association, Utility Wind Integration Group, National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, and the U.S. DOE Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program, was attended by 24 utility representatives and interested parties. The two-day workshop, with an optional tour of the National Wind Technology Center, answered questions about interconnecting wind turbines and other distributed generation applications to electric distribution systems.

Western staff facilitated its 2nd webinar on Wind Power Siting and Environmental Issues on January 21, 2009. Over 160 people attended the webinar, which was chaired by the National Wind Coordinating Collaborative and sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, American Public Power Association-DEED program, U.S. DOE Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Utility Wind Integration Group, and the American Wind Energy Association. Presentations from the webinar are now available on the NWCC website at:

<http://www.nationalwind.org/workgroups/wildlife/windpower.htm>. The next webinar, scheduled for Monday, February 9, from 12-2 p.m. Eastern will focus on Wind Energy Production Forecasting

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**California Energy Crisis Cases Proceed in Federal Court of Claims:** *Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and Southern California Edison Co. v. United States*, Court of Federal Claims, No. 07-157-C. *San Diego Gas & Electric Company v. United States*, Court of Federal Claims, No. 07-167-C. *The People of the State of California, Ex Rel. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Attorney General of the State of California and the Department of Water Resources by and through its California Energy Resources Scheduling Division v. United States*, Court of Federal Claims, No. 07-184-C. These cases involve contract claims against Western and the Bonneville Power Administration related to the California energy crisis of 2000-2001. To date, the majority of the legal proceedings have taken place at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The cases at the Court of Federal Claims allege breach of contract by Western and BPA under the California Independent System Operator and California Power Exchange tariffs. Total claims against Western, for refunds in the various markets, are approximately \$26 million. Presently before the Court are motions brought by the United States to stay the proceedings pending resolution of matters at FERC and the Ninth Circuit and to join the CAISO and the CalPX as necessary parties. Oral arguments on these motions will be heard on February 10, 2009 at the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, DC.

**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 responded to trade and national media inquiries about the impact of the economic stimulus package on Western.

#### **VI. FOIA Requests**

#### **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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# DOE WEEKLY REPORT

February 6, 2009

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

Energy Information Administration

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## BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

February 6, 2009

### I. Schedule

**February 12:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator Steve Wright will participate in the first meeting of the Oregon Energy Planning Council. Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski invited the Administrator to serve on the 11 member council to provide analysis, advice and assistance on energy planning for the state.

**February 17:** The Administrator will speak to the Northwest Industrial Energy Efficiency Summit in Portland. The meeting is being sponsored by the Department of Energy as part of its Save Energy Now Initiative to achieve a 25 percent reduction in industrial energy intensity over 10 years.

**February 25:** The Administrator is Chairman of the United States Entity for the Columbia River Treaty. The United States Army Corps of Engineers makes the other component of the United States Entity. Each year, the Canadian and United States Entities meet with a technical review body established under the Treaty, the Permanent Engineering Board. This year, the meeting is in Vancouver, B.C., on February 25, to review the prior year's Treaty business. Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok will be acting.

### II. Departmental News

**Transmission Services Network Open Season:** On February 13, BPA expects to release its decision to proceed on design and environmental review of a set of new transmission facilities needed to serve requests for transmission service submitted in its 2008 Network Open Season (NOS). BPA conducted the 2008 NOS to provide a more effective long-term transmission queue management tool and determine which facilities may be needed to meet the demand for new transmission service requests. The NOS

resulted in signed agreements from transmission customers for 6,410 MW of transmission, nearly three-quarters of which were for wind projects. BPA plans to launch the 2009 NOS this spring.

**Media Interest:** Low

**Contact:** Sonya Baskerville 202-586-5640

**Initial Power and Transmission Rate Proposals:** On February 10, BPA expects to publish the Federal Register Notice (FRN) announcing its initial proposals for power and transmission rates for the FY 2010 and 2011 rate period. BPA has been conducting public workshops for several months in preparation for its upcoming rate case, which is composed of wholesale power (WP-10) and transmission (TR-10) sub-dockets. This is the first time in several years that BPA is setting power and transmission rates for the same time period. In January, BPA tendered a Partial Settlement Agreement for the transmission sub-docket, which BPA has decided to execute.

Therefore, BPA's initial proposal in the transmission rate case will be based on the Partial Settlement. There has been no comparable settlement of power rates. Publication of the FRN initiates the ex parte rule that is applicable to all BPA and all DOE employees, and is effective until the Record of Decision is issued in July.

**Media Interest:** Low

**Contact:** Sonya Baskerville 202-586-5640

**Quarterly Business Review Meeting:** On February 10, BPA will hold a public Quarterly Business Review (QBR) meeting in Portland. The QBR is intended to be an ongoing forum of quarterly meetings that focus on BPA's finances with a review of current fiscal year actual financial results compared to financial forecasts, such as start-of-year targets and rate case forecasts. The 1st Quarter forecast for FY 2009 will also be shared.

**Media Interest:** Low

**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**

**Economic Stimulus Proposals:** Regional media are reporting the inclusion of an increase in BPA's Treasury borrowing authority in both the Senate and House versions of national economic stimulus legislation.

**VI. FOIA Requests**

**Compensation of Senior Executive Service Employees:** On January 28, Mr. Dan Seligman, an attorney in Seattle, Washington, requested information about the compensation of each BPA Senior Executive Service employee from 2001 to 2005.

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

Nothing to report.

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Steve Isakowitz has no leave or travel planned for the week of February 9, 2009.

**II. Departmental News**

**Strategic Integrated Enterprise Procurement System (STRIPES):** STRIPES was officially turned on for use by the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) on February 4, 2009. The reconstruction/conversion of all open NETL awards into STRIPES began on January 24, 2009, and was successfully completed to move forward with the scheduled deployment.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Matthew Sparks, (301) 903-2144

**Policies and Procedures of the DOE WCF:** On January 29, 2009, the DOE WCF Fund Manager published the revised the "Guide to Services, Policies and Procedures," the Blue Book for FY 2009. This document is available online at [www.wcf.doe.gov](http://www.wcf.doe.gov).

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Robert Emond, (202) 586-2354 / Howard Borgstrom, (202) 586-5923

**Pensions:** CF has received responses to the January 2 actuarial pension data call. These submissions and responses from the Department's second pension data call, are being evaluated by the Office of Internal Review and the Office of Policy. Preliminary discussions have been held with affected programs as well as with the Office of Management and Budget. The results of this data call will help further define the Department's financial position and support key management decisions regarding the funding of pension plans.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Christine Shafik, (202) 586-4171

**CF-70 support to DOD:** Dr Rick Burke, Resource Analysis, OSD/PA&E requested support on Jet Fuel forecasting in support of the Air Force Aerial Re-fueling Tanker re-capitalization next round source selection. CF provided information on the EIA forecasting program and made the introduction to both groups. CF arranged for a presentation at the DOD Cost Analysis Symposium by EIA on their forecasting functions and petroleum cost outlook.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contacts:** Barry Berkowitz, (202) 586-9689

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**  
Nothing to report.

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**II. Departmental News**

**Congressional Hearings:**

On February 12, David Frantz, Director of DOE Loan Guarantee Office, CF will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding the current state of the DOE Loan Guarantee Program. The hearing will also explore alternative mechanisms for running the program. Other witnesses include Alexander (Andy) Karsner, former DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Kevin Book, senior vice president, Energy Policy, Oil & Alternative Energy, FBR Capital Markets Corporation.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328

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**Congressional Meetings and Briefings:**

On February 9, Pat Hoffman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and CI staff will participate in a roundtable meeting with Senator Dorgan (D-ND) and other stakeholders to discuss possible comprehensive energy legislation to support electric transmission and grid development.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Robert Tuttle, 202-586-4298

On February 13, Jim Brodrick, EE and CI staff will meet with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff to discuss solid state lighting.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Martha Oliver, 202-586-2229

**Congressional Site Visits and Events:**

On February 12, Senator Patty Murray's (D-WA) staff, Rebecca Mengelos; Senator Maria Cantwell's (D-WA) staff, David Reeplog; and Representative Doc Hastings' (R-WA) staff, Barb Lisk will visit the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory for tours and briefings on their respective research activities. DOE Pacific Northwest Site Office acting manager Julie Erickson will participate.

**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.

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

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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The Acting Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Annie Whatley will be in the office the week of February 6, 2009.

**II. Key Departmental News**

Nothing to report

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

**Morehouse College's Founders Day program** - A Senior staff member of the Office of Minority Economic Impact will participate in Morehouse College's Founders Day program on Feb 13- 14, 2009. The program will highlight the academic achievements of Morehouse students and DOE's support of the college's science and technology program.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Annie Whatley, 586-4620

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**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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule for Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Rita Wells**

Rita Wells has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

**II. Departmental News**

***Office of Building Technologies Program***

**Lighting Industry Leaders Gather in San Francisco for DOE SSL R&D Workshop, San Francisco, CA, February 3-5.** More than 400 attendees – lighting industry leaders, chip makers, fixture manufacturers, researchers, academia, lighting designers, architects, trade associations, energy efficiency organizations, and utilities – gathered at the DOE Solid-State Lighting (SSL) R&D Workshop in San Francisco to share insights and updates on technology advances and market developments. The annual workshop provides a forum for building partnerships and strategies to accelerate technology advances and guide market introduction of high efficiency, high-performance SSL products. Attendees also had an opportunity to provide input that will guide updates to the DOE SSL R&D Multi-Year Program Plan.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** James Brodrick, 202-586-1856

***Office of Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Infrastructure Program***

**Fuel Cell Material Handling Equipment Ribbon Cutting, New Cumberland, PA.** On February 10, JoAnn Milliken, DOE Hydrogen Program Manager, will join representatives of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the deployment of 40 fuel cell lift trucks at the Defense Distribution-Susquehanna, PA (DDSP). Fuel cells allow for rapid fueling, provide constant power without voltage drop, and eliminate the need for space for battery storage and chargers, all of which enable productivity gains that result in significant lifecycle cost savings over battery powered lift trucks. The event at DDSP marks the first deployment of a total of 100 fuel cell lift trucks that DLA will deploy in four of its high-volume distribution centers across the country in 2009. DOE has partnered with DLA to collect data on the fuel cell operation and performance.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** JoAnn Milliken, 202-586-2480

***Office of Vehicle Technologies Program***

**ORNL Researchers Receive Patent on Advanced Lean-Burn Engine Control.**

Researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory have conducted research on new catalyst systems to control NOx in lean-burn engine exhaust and found that many lean-NOx catalyst devices perform more efficiently with specific hydrocarbons and hydrogen in the exhaust stream. These researchers were recently issued a patent for developing an

approach to tailor hydrogen and other compounds in the exhaust by individually managing the air-fuel ratio and other parameters in each cylinder of a multi-cylinder engine. For example, by sequentially operating each cylinder fuel-rich for a few cycles, substantial levels of hydrogen could be made available for exhaust catalyst reactions while the engine overall operated in a lean mode. This operation was demonstrated and reported last year. The patent, No. 7,469,693 was issued on December 30, 2008.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Gurpreet Singh, 202-586-2333

**Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) Announces Positive Position on B5 Blends.** The recent addition of up to 5 percent by volume of biodiesel to the diesel fuel specification (D975-08) required UL to determine compliance with previously certified equipment. UL, relying heavily on data provided by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and others, announced no new review of equipment was necessary for products intended to use biodiesel blends up to B5 that are compliant with the updated diesel fuel specification. The positive position announced by UL enables fuel providers, distributors, manufacturers, and consumer protection agencies to have confidence that biodiesel content up to B5 will not adversely impact UL certified equipment. The complete announcement can be found at <http://www.ul.com/gasandoil/b5.html>.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Kevin Stork, 202-586-8306

#### ***Office of Wind and Hydropower Program***

**Wind and Water Power Technologies Program Meets Joule Target for Installed Wind Power Capacity.** With a record setting 8,358 MW of new installed wind power capacity in 2008, the Wind and Water Power Technologies Program met their fiscal year 2008 Joule target of 22 states with at least 100 MW of installed wind power capacity – an increase of six states from 2007. To continue to meet fiscal year 2009 Joule targets, the Program will need to add five more states with 100+ MW in 2009.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Brian Connor, 202-586-3756

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

**Geothermal Presentation at Annual Stanford Workshop, February 9.** Ed Wall, Program Manager for the Geothermal Program, will present the keynote speech at the annual Stanford Workshop on geothermal reservoir engineering. The workshop brings together engineers, scientists, and managers who are involved in geothermal reservoir studies and developments. The workshop will be held February 9 - 11, 2009, in the alumni center at Stanford University.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Ed Wall, 202-287-1818

**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 during this reporting period.

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**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

~~Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will be in the office February 9-13, 2009.~~

**II. Key Departmental News**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Acknowledging Completion of Physical Construction of the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion Plant in Paducah, KY:** The February 19, 2009, event is being scheduled to recognize the construction completion and significant safety record achieved during construction of the Paducah, Kentucky Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion Plant. Invited officials will include Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear, U.S. Senator Jim Bunning (confirmed), U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Congressman Ed Whitfield and other local community leaders. This event will also include media. A media advisory will be issued by DOE prior to the event and a press release on the project completion will be issued by Uranium Disposition Services (UDS), the contractor for the DUF6 Conversion Plant, on the day of the event.

**Media Interest:** Congressional. Regional

**Program Contact:** Lauren Milone, 202-586-2932

**Moab UMTRA Project Transportation Plan Completed:** The plan describes operations that will ensure safe and successful staging and transportation of residual radioactive material from the Moab site to the disposal cell at Crescent Junction. The document is available on the project's website:

<http://www.gjem.energy.gov/moab/documents/TransportationPlanRev3.pdf>

**Media Interest:** Regional

**Program Contact:** Don Metzler, 970-257-2115

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Staff Visit to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):** Representatives from the DNFSB are scheduled to visit the Carlsbad Field Office for briefings and tour of the WIPP facility on February 17-19, 2009. The purpose of the visit is routine and to follow up on the activities conducted during the maintenance outage at WIPP, which was successfully completed on January 20, 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Roger Nelson, 575-234-7213

**III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest**

**Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Senator Jim DeMint's (R-SC) Staffers to Visit the Savannah River Site:** Rene Ann Tewkesbury from Senator Graham's Columbia

office and Ian Headley from Senator's DeMint's Columbia office will visit the Savannah River National Laboratory on February 10, 2009.

**Media Interest:** None Anticipated

**DOE Contact:** Jim Giusti, 803-952-7684

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

Nothing to report

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**V. Press Inquiries**

Nothing to report.

**VI. FOIA Requests**

Nothing to report

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

**The Office of Environmental Management (EM) Sponsors New Product for Decontamination:** EM manages a grant to Cellular Bioengineering Incorporated (CBI) for the development and commercialization of DeconGel, a proprietary product for decontaminating a wide variety of substrates and radioactive isotopes. During the week of January 26, 2009, EM participated in a pilot demonstration of DeconGel, including the recently developed sprayable version. The pilot demonstration was held at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Building 2026, an excess facility housing a series of laboratory hot cells where the operating gallery was contaminated by an accidental spill. Utilizing laboratory personnel, DeconGel was applied to a number of items in the area, including floors, walls, and operating equipment with complex geometries. Radiological surveys were conducted prior to application and re-surveys are currently being conducted to determine the efficacy of DeconGel in removing contamination. Results will be presented in a report.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Andy Szilagyi, 301-903-4278

**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Der**

All travel and speaking engagements reported through February 27.

**II. Key Departmental News**

**NARUC Winter Committee Meetings.** On February 15-18, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will hold Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C. Christopher Freitas, Program Manager, Office of Oil and Natural Gas, will attend. Mr. Freitas serves as DOE's representative to the Committee on Gas, the DOE/NARUC LNG Partnership, and the NARUC Utility Market Access Partnership.  
**Program Contact:** Christopher Freitas, 202/586-1657

**SNL to Conduct Large Scale LNG Fire Tests.** Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), under the direction of the Office of Fossil Energy's Office of Oil & Natural Gas, will conduct the first in a series of three large scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) fire tests during the period of February 18-20. The objective of these tests, to be conducted at an experimental test site at SNL in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is to improve the understanding of the physics and hazards of large LNG fires caused by LNG spills over water. This test will be observed by representatives from the Office of Oil & Natural Gas, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The final two tests are planned for early summer, 2009. This series of tests, consisting of pool fires with fire diameters of 35, 70, and 100 meters, respectively, will be the largest LNG fire tests ever conducted over water.  
**Program Contact:** Bob Corbin, 202/586-9460

**Responses to Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for Third Round Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI-3) Total \$7 Billion In Value.** NETL received applications for cost-shared projects totaling more than \$7 billion in value before the CCPI-3 FOA that closed on January 20. The proposals represent a diversity of approaches for demonstrating at commercial-scale some innovative technologies that capture and either sequester or beneficially utilize CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by coal-fired power plants. Depending on fiscal year 2009 appropriations, DOE anticipates distributing up to \$440 million for multiple projects selected from among proposals that could advance clean, coal-derived energy—with no greenhouse gas emissions—toward the commercial market and the consumer.

**Program Contact:** Ted McMahon, 304/285-4865

**Injection Phase for FE Carbon Sequestration Project Begins in Central Appalachian Basin.** The Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, one of seven NETL-managed regional partnerships studying the viability of carbon sequestration as a greenhouse gas mitigation strategy, initiated the injection of CO<sub>2</sub> into coal seams in Russell County, VA, on January 15. The project site is representative of an area that could store an estimated 1.3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> while producing up to 2.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas from unmineable coal seams. Approximately 1,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> will be injected over 45 days into the Pocahontas and Lee formations ranging from 1,400 to 2,200 feet in depth and 0.7 to 3.0 feet in thickness. The project is designed to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of utilizing the immediate commercial benefits of methane recovery to offset infrastructure development costs for the safe and permanent storage of larger volumes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Program Contact:** Bruce Lani, 412/386-5819

**NETL Releases Technology Transfer Solicitation.** NETL is seeking partners to commercialize gaseous cleanup technologies through the licensing of DOE-owned patents and patent applications for processes that capture carbon dioxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen sulfide, mercury, and trace contaminants from the combustion or gasification of coal. Partners will license these technologies and/or conduct related research through Cooperative Research and Development Agreements. No government funds will directly fund proposers as part of the solicitation.

**Program Contacts:** Diane Newlon, 304/285-4086; Henry Pennline, 412/386-6013

**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**

**February 6, 2009**

- I. Schedule**  
No leave or travel plans

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- II. Departmental News**  
Nothing to Report
- 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**

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**H. 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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Cases Received:**

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received no new cases during the present week.

**Hearings Conducted:**

During the previous week, an OHA Hearing Officer conducted a personnel security hearing (10 CFR Part 710) in Los Alamos, NM.

**Decisions Issued:**

**Personnel Security (10 CFR Part 710)**

On February 3, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision in which she concluded that an individual's access authorization should not be restored. A DOE Operations Office suspended the individual's security clearance upon finding that the individual had falsified or omitted information on security questionnaires and during a personnel security interview, relating to his failure to pay his federal and state income taxes from 1997 through 2007. After conducting a hearing and evaluating the documentary and testimonial evidence, the Hearing Officer found that the individual did not present sufficient evidence to resolve the security concerns. In making her determination, the Hearing Officer found unpersuasive the individual's explanations for falsifying his security questionnaires, especially since the individual had a history of providing inaccurate information to DOE. In addition, the Hearing Officer found that the individual did not present any evidence to explain his failure to file his taxes in a timely manner. OHA Case No. TSO-0668 (Janet Fishman, 287-1579)

On February 3, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision finding that an individual's request for an access authorization should not be granted. The Hearing Officer found that the individual did not adequately mitigate the security concerns arising from omissions on his Questionnaire for National Security Positions and inconsistent explanations given during a personnel security interview regarding his illegal drug use and two prior arrests. In reaching this determination, the Hearing Officer found, after listening to the individual's testimony and weighing the evidence, the individual's explanations for the omissions and inconsistencies to be unpersuasive. OHA Case No. TSO-0684 (Kimberly Jenkins-Chapman, 287-1449)

## **Appeals**

On February 2, 2009, OHA issued a decision denying an Appeal filed by Donald R. Jackson under the Privacy Act, from a determination issued by the Oak Ridge Operations Office (ORO) of DOE. Mr. Jackson filed a request with ORO for copies of Mr. Jackson's personnel, medical and radiation exposure records. ORO located Mr. Jackson's radiation exposure records and released those records. However, ORO was unable to find any additional records. Mr. Jackson challenged the adequacy of the search. OHA contacted ORO and obtained additional information about the search. OHA found that ORO had conducted an adequate search because it searched the files most likely to contain the information that Mr. Jackson requested. Therefore, OHA denied Mr. Jackson's Appeal. Case No. TFA-0284 (Valerie Vance Adeyeye, 287-1486)

On February 5, 2009, OHA issued a decision remanding a FOIA appeal to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Service Center. Tom Marks requested copies of: (1) FY00-FY08 Asalary increase authorization@ proposals submitted to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and/or the University of California (UC) on behalf of LANL to NNSA/DOE; (2) DOE/NNSA Asalary increase authorization@ responses to LANL/UC for FY00-FY08; (3) all [computer] Ahot skills@ requests or proposals submitted by LANL and/or the UC on behalf of LANL to the NNSA/DOE after January 1, 1999; and, (4) all DOE/NNSA responses to the request and/or proposals as described in item 3, above, and all authorization for "hot skills" compensation to LANL/UC after January 1, 1999. NNSA released the DOE/NNSA salary increase authorization responses, but withheld the remainder of the responsive documents relying on Exemptions 2 and 4 of the FOIA. In considering the appeal, however, OHA found that NNSA did not indicate which specific Exemption was relied upon to withhold what information, and that NNSA had apparently misapplied Exemptions 2 and 4. OHA therefore remanded the matter to NNSA for a new analysis and determination. OHA Case No. TFA-0288 (Janet Fishman, 287-1579)

## **Whistleblower**

On January 26, 2009, OHA issued a decision granting a Jurisdictional Appeal filed by Clarissa V. Alvarez under the DOE's Contractor Employee Protection Program, 10 CFR Part 708. The Appeal pertained to a Part 708 Complaint that Ms. Alvarez had filed against her former employer, NetGain, a DOE contractor in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In her Complaint, Ms. Alvarez alleged that NetGain terminated her employment after she had raised concerns about NetGain's alleged inappropriate dissemination of personal information about her from her personnel security file. The Whistleblower Manager at the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Service Center dismissed Ms. Alvarez' Complaint on December 1, 2008. In reversing the NNSA Whistleblower Manager's dismissal, OHA found that Ms. Alvarez's Complaint was not frivolous or without merit on its face. OHA further held that it was possible with further factual development that Ms. Alvarez might be able to meet her evidentiary burden of showing that her allegations constituted protected disclosures. Accordingly, OHA remanded the Complaint for further processing. OHA Case No. TBU-0084 (Steve Fine, 287-1490).

**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Fred Brown, [fred.brown@hq.doe.gov](mailto:fred.brown@hq.doe.gov), 287-1545

## **OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Federal Financial Assistance**

On February 11, 2009, staff from the Office of Civil Rights will be attending a meeting of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Title IX. The Working Group includes representatives from the Department of Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and DOE's Office of Civil Rights. Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

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Staff from the Office of Civil Rights is in the process of receiving and reviewing data from the three universities selected for Title IX compliance reviews to be conducted in March and April 2009. The Title IX compliance reviews will focus on selected engineering programs at North Carolina State University, the University of Central Florida, and Arizona State University. Contact: Lloyd Buddoo, x6-7351

**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Bill Lewis, [bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov](mailto:bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov), 6-6530

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

**IV. Progress on IPACT Deliverables**

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**V. Press Inquiries**

**VI. FOIA Requests**

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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

**February 6, 2009**

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

**February 4:** Met with the Director of Naval Reactors and senior staff at the Washington Naval Shipyard to discuss topics of mutual interest. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior HSS staff accompanied.

**February 12:** Meet with directors from the Department of Labor (DOL) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that have Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) implementation responsibilities to discuss inter-agency coordination efforts. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior staff are scheduled to accompany.

**February 18:** Travel to Nevada with DOL representatives to tour the Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain facility. The HSS Deputy Chief for Operations is scheduled to accompany.

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**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**

**DOE Affirmative Procurement and Recycling Report:** In cooperation with the DOE Office of Procurement, HSS anticipates submitting the DOE report on affirmative procurement and recycling to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) next week (February 9).

**Management Impact:** The report is required by Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, and is based upon data provided by DOE field and program elements.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Nuclear Quality Assurance (NQA) Audit of the Filter Test Facility (FTF):** HSS is scheduled to conduct the triennial NQA audit of the FTF contractor, Air Technique International (ATI), in Baltimore, MD, next week (February 10-11). The FTF performs independent inspection and testing of all High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters used in DOE facilities. The last NQA audit of FTF was performed in 2005.

**Management Impact:** The requirement for 100 percent independent testing of HEPA filters was stipulated in a letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) by the Secretary of Energy on June 4, 2001.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Marshall Islands Program:** HSS is scheduled to lead a team consisting of Headquarters and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) personnel, the new Chief of Clinical Services (CCS), a medical officer and nurse, and logistics support personnel on a medical mission to the outer islands of Utrök and Mejjatto February 11-27. DOE will also conduct community meetings at Utrök and Majuro to discuss radiological findings.

**Management Impact:** These activities satisfy Public Law 108-188 requiring DOE to manage the medical screening and environmental monitoring program at the Republic of the Marshall Islands

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Russian Health Studies Program:** HSS is scheduled to lead key U.S. scientists to Ozersk, Russia, February 19-28, to work with Russian counterparts at the Mayak Production Association and the Southern Urals Biophysics Institute on epidemiological and historical dose reconstruction studies.

**Management Impact:** The studies are used by national and international standard-setting organizations for revising radiation protection standards.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Other Government Agencies (OGA) Classification/Declassification Training:**

1. HSS is scheduled to conduct a half-day Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers (HRRDR) refresher course for the Department of State (DOS) Declassification Office reviewers in Washington, DC, February 19.
2. HSS is scheduled to present a Restricted Data (RD)/Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) briefing to students of the Department of Defense (DoD) Information Security Management course at the Defense Service School in Linthicum, MD, February 18. Over 30 students from various DoD organizations will be in attendance.
3. HSS is scheduled to conduct a 4-day HRRDR course for declassification reviewers from various Government Departments and agencies at the DOE Forrestal Building next week (February 9-12).

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Independent Oversight Activities:**

1. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted February 18.
2. National Training Center (NTC) Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (February 10-11).
3. NNSA Service Center Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (February 11).
4. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H) Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were completed this week (February 6).
5. Sandia National Laboratories – New Mexico (SNL-NM) Emergency Management Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were completed this week (February 4).
6. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Nuclear Safety Follow-Up Inspection: Onsite data collection activities were completed this week (February 3).

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:**

- February 9: Personnel from the Savannah River Site (SRS) DOE-Inspector General office will meet with the Board Chairman to discuss the development of DOE seismic design criteria.
- February 17: The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- February 19: The Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, NNSA will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.

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

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**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**

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report

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**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

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**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

David Geiser, Acting Director, Office of Legacy Management, will be participating in a panel discussion at the Energy Communities Alliance conference on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

**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:** 02/03/2009

**Requester:** Raymond W. Stephens

**Subject Matter:** Review of a disc of 1063 pages of information that the Department of Labor refused to disclose to Mr. Stephens in an appeal since the records originated with DOE.

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Selection of Contractor for Engineering Consulting Services:** On January 30, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management selected R.W. Beck, Inc. to perform independent market advisory services for DOE's Loan Guarantee Program Office providing an expert, independent assessment of the viability of the business plan associated with the loan guarantee application submitted by Solyndra, Inc., as well as an assessment and analysis of Solyndra's financial model, competitors, and market entry plan into the photovoltaic solar panel market. The cost of the services is estimated at \$135,000 through July 31, 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

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

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**Purchase of Strontium for the Office of Nuclear Energy:** On February 2, 2009, the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management awarded a task order to Nuclear Medicine Solutions, a small business concern, to purchase strontium and provide medical isotopes. The total value of the task order is \$207,109.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Donna Williams, (202) 287-1572

**Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System (STRIPES) Implemented at NETL:** The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) is the most recent contracting office to implement STRIPES. The office went live on 2/2/2009 and has successfully established more than 1,000 existing contract and grant instruments in STRIPES. This brings the total number of contracting offices using STRIPES to nine of the 18 offices. As of January 31, 2009, more than \$1.4 Billion has been obligated by these offices. In addition, initial Business Readiness Assessments have been conducted at the next two contracting offices to be implemented; Office of Science – Chicago Office, and the Golden Field Office. The training has been completed at the Office of Science – Chicago Office while the training for the Golden Field Office is scheduled to begin in late February 2009.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Douglas Baptist, (202) 287-1658

**Site Visit for the Salt Waste Processing Facility Project (SWPF) at Savannah River Site (SRS):** On January 27-30, 2009, representatives from the Office of Engineering & Construction Management (OECM) and the Office of Environmental Management (EM) met with the project management teams for SWPF and other EM cleanup projects at SRS

to review performance and progress. The management assessment for SWPF was pursuant to the approval of Critical Decision-3, Start of Construction, and the baseline change to \$1.339B.

**Media Interest:** None

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

**2009 DOE Project Management Workshop:** General registration has begun for the 2009 Department of Energy Project Management Workshop. All those interested may register for this important training event at [www.2009DOEWorkshop.com](http://www.2009DOEWorkshop.com). This year's workshop will be conducted on March 31 and April 1, 2009, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** John Makepeace, (202) 586-5326

**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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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

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**II. Departmental News**

**Office of Nuclear Energy Met with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Standby Support Subsidy Model:** Department of Energy (DOE) staff met with OMB staff on DOE's credit subsidy input model for Standby Support on February 5, 2009. DOE staff representatives from the Office of General Counsel, the Loan Guarantee Program, and the Chief Financial Office also attended the meeting. The purpose of the discussion was to resolve the remaining substantive issues regarding the credit subsidy input model methodology and probability assumptions that DOE provided to OMB in January 2009. OMB still has concerns about the litigation risk probability contained in the model and NE continues to work with them to resolve those concerns.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Chuck Wade, NE-31, 301-903-6509

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**Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) National Scientific User Facility (NSUF) Outreach:** The NE NSUF has solicited and received six Faculty and Student Research Team (FSRT) proposals. Two of these will be selected on February 13, 2009, for implementation this year. The proposals involve eight universities from across the United States and address research capability needs critical to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) mission. The FSRT concept will team university faculty and students with INL researchers and staff in developing experiment capabilities in areas where INL can better serve national needs in nuclear energy research including ramp testing of fuel, instrumentation test capsules, and new analytical equipment for post-irradiation examination of experiments. Each FSRT will spend 10-12 weeks at INL.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Dan Funk, NE-32, 301-903-3845

**Environmental Assessment Comments Received:** Comments have been received on the "Draft Environmental Assessment Disposition of the Department of Energy's Excess Depleted Uranium, Natural Uranium, and Low-Enriched Uranium" from three states and five private entities as of the January 30, 2009, submission deadline. Comments are being assessed to determine if a finding of no significant impact can be sought.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Ronald E. Hagen, NE-62, 202-586-1381

**NE-6 meeting with Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States:** On January 29, 2009, Office of Corporate and Global Partnership Development staff met with Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States (U.S.) Dr. O. Shamshur at the Ukrainian Embassy. The Ambassador expressed Ukraine's appreciation for the assistance provided by the United States Government to the Ukrainian nuclear sector under the International Nuclear Cooperation Program, specifically the importance of the Ukrainian Nuclear Fuel Qualification Project (UNFQP) and the commercial contract with Westinghouse. The Ambassador stressed the importance of nuclear power in Ukraine (15 reactors; 50 percent of supply to the grid).

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Grigory Trosman, NE-6.1, 301-903-3853

# NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

February 6, 2009

## I. Schedule

On February 12, NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino will speak at the 2009 Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Annual Conference in Washington, DC. ECA is an organization of local governments that are impacted by DOE and NNSA activities. Mr. D'Agostino will address the NNSA's Complex Transformation Plan.

## II. Departmental News

**Event: Possible Beryllium Exposure Notifications:** This week, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) began notifying approximately 1,800 current and former employees and authorized visitors of their potential exposure to beryllium while touring or working in Technical Area 41 (TA-41). Beginning in November 2008, surveys taken in TA-41 indicated beryllium levels higher than Department of Energy limits for a non-beryllium area; the affected area is being decontaminated. While the risk of exposure is believed to be low, the notifications are appropriate. LANL has issued a press release and is in the process of notifying employees and visitors who have been in the facility since the last comprehensive survey of the area, which was conducted in 2001.

**Media Interest:** High.

**POC:** C. H. Keilers, LASO, 505-665-6352.

**Event: DOE/NNSA Border Security Cooperation with Iraq:** On February 5-6, the Office of Nonproliferation and International Security Cooperative Border Security Project (CBSP) will meet with Space and Naval Systems Warfare Command (SPAWAR) representatives to complete a partnership agreement for a border security capacity-building project on a 100-kilometer sector of Iraq's border. CBSP will conduct systems analyses of border security vulnerabilities and develop solutions, while SPAWAR will provide and install the equipment needed to implement CBSP recommendations. The collaboration is the first phase of a comprehensive effort to strengthen Iraqi border security. On February 7, CBSP and SPAWAR representatives will conduct a video teleconference with the Iraqi Minister of Interior and the Commanding General of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq to finalize the agreement.

**Media Interest:** Low.

**POC:** Jimmie Collins, NA-24, 202-586-6780.

**Event: Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility:** On January 29, a worker was sprayed with water from the 60 psi fire suppression system when he removed a one inch plug from a line that he thought had been drained. This occurred because the approved work package had workers isolate and drain an incorrect portion of the system. The worker was taken to occupational medicine, was treated as potential tritium contamination, and was later released without restriction. Because of the potential for contamination, access

to the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF) was restricted for about two hours following the event. Approximately 100 gallons of firewater was released to Building 450 and was controlled. The facility took appropriate actions for the impaired fire suppression system until it was restored that evening. In response to this event, LANL management has paused all corrective and preventive maintenance at WETF and plans to evaluate and release each work package after review.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** C. H. Keilers, LASO, 505-665-6352.

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**Event: Last National Ignition Facility (NIF) Line Replacement Unit Installed:** On January 26, the 6,206<sup>th</sup> Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) was successfully installed in Bundle 45. LRU system qualification and commissioning is progressing well with the remaining effort focused in the Target Bay. We are projecting NIF LRU commissioning (192 Beam LRU Installation Qualification – a DOE level 2 milestone) to be completed by the end this month.

**Media Interest:** None.

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

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**Event: New Sensor Technology to Revolutionize Environmental Testing:** The Microsystems sub-element of the Weapons Systems Engineering Assessment Technology sub-program at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) is developing a new sensor technology that could revolutionize environmental testing. Conventional testing often involves dozens of sensors requiring significant investment in set-up and data acquisition. Leveraging prior lab investments built on passive Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) devices may enable unprecedented levels of spatial measurement resolution while minimizing test complexity and expense. In a recent test, SAW devices connected to a variety of sensors were shown to also provide accurate temperature measurements. Slight changes in the resonant frequency of the SAW device resulting from temperature effects are readily identifiable in the reflected signal. This result obviates the need for dedicated temperature sensing channels since this information can be detected in other wireless sensors. This development effort is the subject of a Level 3 milestone to demonstrate wireless sensing in relevant environmental tests.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** W. Roy-Harrison, NA-121.3, 202-586-9964, and Walt Gill (1532), 505-845-3193.

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**Event: Conclusion of Counterintelligence Inspection at the Livermore Site Office (LSO):** During January 26 - February 4, the California Regional Counterintelligence Office, located at the LSO and responsible for CI support to the LSO, Stanford Linear Accelerator, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was inspected. The office was last inspected August 15-25, 2005. Per established procedures, the NNSA Liaison for Intelligence and Counterintelligence attended the inspection out-brief, provided to the LSO Manager and others on February 4.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Mark Roman, NA-70, 202-586-8669.

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

**Event: Visit of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU) to DOE for Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program Meeting:** On February 10-11, the Office of International Material Protection and Cooperation's Second Line of Defense (SLD) Program and the SBGSU will hold their quarterly Steering Committee meeting at DOE Headquarters. Agenda items include the overall strategy for equipping 72 sites in Ukraine with radiation detection equipment by 2013, as well as immediate plans to complete 10 sites in FY09. NNSA's SLD Program funds the majority of improvements to radiation detection and interdiction capabilities at legal points of entry in Ukraine; however, Canada, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea have contributed \$9.1 million in financial assistance for this work in the Ukraine. SBGSU attendees include: Lieutenant General Olexander Melnikov, Deputy Head of the International Department; Major General Oleksandr Binkovskyi, Chief of Border Control Department; Viktor Shendryk, and Vadim Ivko.

**Media Interest:** None.

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

**Event: W76-1 Arming Firing & Fuzing (AF&F) Assembly Code Blue:** The Kansas City Site Office is participating in video teleconferences between Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies and SNL to assist in the evaluation of the ability to deliver MC4700 AF&Fs per Pantex needs through FY 2009. These meetings are being held three times per week, and are focused on resolving design and production issues, including the new requirement to implement Abnormal Electrical Unlock testing at multiple levels of assembly. Near and long-term issues need to be resolved to resume AF&F product acceptance to meet Department of Defense and United Kingdom commitments.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Kent Davis, KCSO, 816-997-3916.

**Event: Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research:** On January 27, Shot 84, a surrogate experiment to validate gun performance for future special nuclear material (SNM) experiments, was successfully conducted. This was the second shot following decontamination efforts after Shot 82. **Shot 85, another surrogate, is planned for February 9 to resolve issues with the X-ray window. Experiments using SNM will resume the week of February 23, if all documentation is approved.**

**Media Interest:** None.

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

**Event: Technical Area 53 Lujan Center Basic Energy Science Peer Review:** During the period of February 10-12, the DOE Office of Science, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, will conduct a peer review of the Manuel J. Lujan Neutron Scattering Center. Topics to be covered in this review include: facility performance (schedules, reliability, user participation, etc.); selected presentations of the most outstanding research performed at the Lujan Center during the past three years (by field of research); R&D

plans and future scientific directions; LANL plans that may affect the Lujan Center and the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE). Reviewers will also be asked to evaluate the performance of operating beam lines.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** E. Colton, LASO, 505-667-4241.

**Event: Surety Review Assessment Team (SRAT):** In December 2008, the SRAT was formed by the Office of Military Application and Stockpile Operations to conduct a preliminary review and prioritize surety features, systems, and technologies that are in development for possible inclusion in a B61 Life Extension Program (LEP). The team, consisting of members from NNSA Headquarters, LANL, LLNL, and SNL, has held several meetings, reviewed recent studies, reviewed available technologies, and is in the final stage of preparing their recommendations for presentation on February 11. This recommendation will be taken into the next phase of study, the Technical Review of Surety Requirements for the B61 LEP.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Jerry Kreft, NA-122.12, 202-586-9970 and Dale Talbott, NA-122.12, 202-586-0369.

**Event: Nuclear Weapons Council Standing and Safety Committee (NWCSSC):** On February 12, the NWCSSC is scheduled to meet and Vice Chairman Mr. Gerald Talbot will attend for the Office of Defense Programs.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Roy Matthews, NA-10, 202-586-7631.

#### **IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

#### **V. Press Inquiries**

Todd Jacobson, reporter for the *Nuclear Weapons and Materials Monitor*, inquired regarding current plans for the High Explosive Application Facility Annex at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

**POC:** John Belluardo, LSO PA, 925-422-2567.

**NNSA Public Affairs:** This week, NNSA Public Affairs issued a press release announcing the contract to build Sequoia, the next supercomputer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

**Media Interest:** High.

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

#### **VI. FOIA Requests**

**Requester:** Mr. James C. Oskins, Parker, CO

**Date of Request:** January 27, 2009

**Subject Matter:** Requesting copies of documents on Nuclear Accidents.

**Requester:** Mr. George Harkin, Corvallis, OR

**Date of Request:** January 27, 2009

**Subject Matter:** Requesting the source code to JESS Rules Engine for JAVA. The software was written by Sandia National Laboratories.

**Requester:** James Oskins, Parker, CO

**Date of Request:** January 28, 2009, via email.

**Subject:** Letter to E.J. Bauser regarding nonnuclear incidents involving nuclear warheads, dated July 17, 1969.

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**Requester:** Michael Holloway, Las Vegas, NV

**Date of Request:** January 29, 2009, via email.

**Subject:** Records about all objects (identified and unidentified) that crashed April 18-22, 1962, in Nevada.

## **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Patricia A. Hoffman, Acting Assistant Secretary does not have any travel or leave plans for the week beginning February 9, 2009.

**II. Key Departmental News**

**OE Deploys ESF #12 for Winter Storms.** As a result of the severe winter storm that brought rain, ice, sleet, and snow to a broad area from Texas to the Northeast late January 26-28, ESF #12 was activated to deploy personnel as part of FEMA's coordinated Federal disaster response. The extreme weather impacted customers in Arkansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Virginia. ESF #12 personnel continue to staff the FEMA Region IV Initial Operating Facility (IOF) in Frankfort, KY, and assist with overall national incident response and recovery operations and support FEMA and other Federal partners with energy infrastructure restoration planning.

**Media Interest:** Local Press

**Program Contact:** Matt Rosenbaum, 586-1060 or John McIlvain, 586-9267

**Smart Grid Technology Won 2009 T&D Automation Project of the Year Award.**

The Commonwealth Edison real-time fault indication project was announced at DistribuTech 2009 to be the winner of the 2009 T&D Automation Project of the Year by the *Utility Automation & Engineering T&D* magazine. Development of this project was sponsored by the GridApp consortium—a public/private partnership supported by OE and established with member utilities to bring near-term smart grid technologies into broad utility use. ComEd and its partners developed the overhead fault indicators with communications capabilities, which would result in a smarter grid and improved reliability metrics. Besides responding to faults, the indicators also provide average hourly loads, ambient temperatures, and historical outage related information, which can be stored in historian files for future analysis. Fast and easy to install and a good foundation for smart grid technologies, this project is one that ComEd believes other utilities will be able to replicate, tailoring the specific technologies to each utility's unique distribution system. ComEd has been installing the devices to aid in its fault location determination since March 2008. This is the third *Utility Automation & Engineering T&D* award won by the OE/GridApp partnership-supported projects since the consortium's establishment in 2005.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Eric Lightner, 586-8130

**DOE Participates In NASPI Working Group Meetings.** On February 3-5, in Scottsdale, AZ, Phil Overholt of OE and Don Geiling of NETL presented updates on OE synchrophasor research and development, and on an OE contract to develop a communications specification to support the North American SynchroPhasor Initiative (NASPI). The full three days of meetings included a formal review by a NASPI review team of progress to develop the specification, the NASPI Leadership and Working Group (WG) meetings, WG Task Team meetings and a session to continue developing a roadmap for deployment of a phasor network across North America. The themes of the WG meeting were communications and cyber security for a fully-developed phasor network. Approximately 100 people participated in this series of meetings which was hosted by Salt River Project, the large public utility in the Phoenix area.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Phil Overholt, 586-8110

**OE Staff Present at NASEO Conference.** On February 3, Larry Mansueti and Alice Lippert, Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability (OE) both made presentations at the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) Conference, held at the Omni-Shoreham hotel in Washington, DC. Mr. Mansueti was on the Energy Production and Transmission panel and provided an update on the National Council of Electricity Policy's activities. Ms. Alice Lippert provided remarks on recent and proposed State energy assurance planning activities to the Energy Security and Data Committee. Ms. Lippert also participated in NASEO's proposed "Energy Table Top Exercise in Box" on Wednesday.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Alice Lippert 586-9600 and Larry Mansueti, 586-2588

**Visit to Valero Petroleum Refinery Paulsboro New Jersey.** On February 5, Dr. Kenneth Friedman and Patrick Willging visited the Valero Petroleum Refinery along with the Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor (PSA) for New Jersey Frank Westfall as well as several New Jersey State Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Officials. The visit included a tour of the 950 acre facility that can produce up to 190,000 barrels of day of refined products. The DHS PSA's are visiting all significant critical infrastructure sites in the U.S. to support their site vulnerability assessments and buffer zone protection programs.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contacts:** Kenneth Friedman 586-0379 and Patrick Willging 586-1313

**Hill Staffers Briefed on Energy Storage.** On Feb. 5, Imre Gyuk met with David Berick and Ken Lutz of Senator Wyden's office, at their request, to discuss potential energy storage incentives. An update on available technologies, their application to enable increased penetration of renewables and strengthen the electric grid, and the current state of deployment was provided. Storage industry perspectives on various types of tax credits and accelerated cost recovery systems were discussed. There appears to be

considerable Senate interest in providing appropriate legislation to further increase storage deployment. Gil Bindewald (OE) and Martha Oliver (CI ) were also present at the meeting.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Imre Gyuk, 586-1482

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

Nothing to Report

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**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

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

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to Report

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**II. Department News**

**OMB Meeting on CAFE Rule:** Acting Assistant Secretary Jonathan Shrier and Deputy Assistant Secretary Carmen Difiglio participated in a meeting held by OMB to determine possible changes to DOT's draft final CAFE rule before it must be issued by April 1, 2009. The White House has instructed DOT to only set model year (MY) 2011 standards instead of the MY 2011 – 2015 standards included in the current draft rule. The main question was whether to use world-wide or U.S.-only benefit estimates for reduced GHG emissions (used in the rule's cost-benefit analysis). However, DOE, EPA and the White House raised a number of other issues that require attention.

**Contacts:** Jonathan Shrier, 6-5800; Carmen Difiglio, 6-8436

**Media Interest:** None

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**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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**  
Nothing to report

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**II. Key Departmental News**  
Nothing to report

**III. Upcoming Events Or Matters Of Secretarial Interest (7-day advance)**

**Update of the Yucca Mountain License Application:** OCRWM will submit an update to the *Yucca Mountain License Application (LA) for Construction Authorization* in mid-February. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations require an update to the LA upon appointment of an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which NRC established last month. The submittal of the update is likely to generate media attention and other public inquiries.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Christopher Kouts, 202-586-6850

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**2009 Energy Communities Alliance Conference:** On February 12, Acting Director Christopher Kouts will speak at the Energy Communities Alliance Conference in Washington, DC, to discuss the current status of the program.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Susan Smith, 202-586-3213

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**  
Nothing to report

**V. Press Inquiries**

Calvert Collins, *KLAS-TV, Channel 8*, and Elaine Hiruo, *Platts*, called with questions regarding the status of the program including possible budget cuts.

**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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Dr. Patricia M. Dehmer, Acting Director, Office Science, will be on official travel February 12-15.

**II. Departmental News**

**Office of Science Releases Laboratory Appraisal Report Cards for FY 2008:** On February 5, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science released fiscal year 2008 performance appraisal report cards for the contractors of the 10 DOE national laboratories that the Office oversees. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Office of Science (SC) instituted a new process for evaluating the scientific, technological, management, and operational performance of the contractors who run its ten national laboratories. The new appraisal process established a common structure and scoring system across all ten of the Office of Science laboratories. Structured around eight performance goals, the appraisal process emphasizes the importance of delivering the science and technology necessary to meet the missions of the Department of Energy; of operating the laboratories in a safe, secure, responsible and cost-effective way; and of recognizing the leadership, stewardship and value-added provided by the senior leadership of the laboratory and its managing contractor. Input is solicited from all the major sponsors of work at the laboratory. The new appraisal process has enhanced the Office of Science management's involvement in the evaluation of its laboratories' performance through a series of meetings designed to establish challenging yet equitable performance measures for all the labs at the beginning of the year, and subsequently discuss and evaluate the laboratories' performance at the end of the year. Both the laboratories' report cards and evaluation reports are made available to the public. The Office of Science FY 2008 Laboratory Appraisal reports cards are accessible at:

[http://www.science.doe.gov/OLPE/lab\\_performance.htm](http://www.science.doe.gov/OLPE/lab_performance.htm).

**Media Interest:** Yes (trade and local press).

**Program Contacts:** Devon Streit, SC-32, 202-586-9129; John LaBarge, SC-32, 202-586-9747

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

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

**V. Press Inquiries**

In response to a query from a reporter for Science Magazine, the Office of Science provided a written statement, attributable to Acting Director Dr. Patricia Dehmer,

regarding the Office's preparations to manage possible funding increases provided in the economy recovery package pending in Congress.

As requested, the Office of Biological and Environmental Research provided data regarding congressionally directed PET research to a reporter with The Scientist.

**VI. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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**SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**Kenneth E. Legg, Administrator –**

The Administrator will be attending the Jim Woodruff Customer Meeting on February 11, in Chattahoochee, FL.

The Administrator will also attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, on February 15-18.

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

**II. Departmental News**

**Jim Woodruff Customer Meeting:** The Administrator, the Assistant Administrator for Finance and Marketing, Southeastern staff, and representatives of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will meet with the Jim Woodruff preference customers on February 11, in Chattahoochee, FL, to discuss the upcoming rate adjustment for the Jim Woodruff System and customer funding of needed repairs and replacements at the Jim Woodruff Project.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Leon Jourolmon, 706-213-3835

**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

February 5, 2009

## I. Schedule

Jon Worthington, Administrator

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## II. Key Departmental News

Southwestern is working with other area utilities to recover from a severe ice storm that damaged area transmission systems in Arkansas and Missouri on January 27-28, 2009. Area municipalities have sustained extreme damage and despite contractor assistance have restored only 10 to 20 percent of their respective distribution systems to date. Primary damage to Southwestern's system is centered in northeast Arkansas and southeast Missouri and consists of 355 69-kV and 64 161-kV structures, associated conductors, and fiber optic shield wire. Since the storm, Southwestern has restored two major line segments and is working to restore seven more (4 @ 69-kV and 3 @ 161-kV). Restoration duration is expected to take at least 3 to 4 weeks. Replacement components have been purchased and all supplies are expected to be on site within the next several days. Southwestern has obtained the assistance of three Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) line crews and is contracting for 3 to 5 more crews. Southwestern will continue to provide updates on its restoration efforts to interested parties by e-mail and via the Southwestern website at [www.swpa.gov](http://www.swpa.gov) as they become available.

**Media Interest:** High

**Program Contact:** Scott Carpenter, 918-595-6694

**A meeting with BlueINGreen, Inc.**, a business associated with the University of Arkansas, and Southwestern has been scheduled for February 9. The meeting will focus on the testing of their Supersaturated Dissolved Oxygen Injection System in the tailwaters of the Norfolk project and in the fish raceways at the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery in November 2008. BlueInGreen is finalizing a report regarding the Norfolk tests and has requested the meeting to garner Southwestern's input.

**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**

**February 6, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

~~Schedule for Administrator - Timothy J. Meeks~~

February 11-12 Sierra Nevada Region Customer Meeting, Rancho Cordova, CA

February 15-17 NRECA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

February 23-27 APPA's Legislative Rally, Washington, DC

(Acting: Tony Montoya)

**II. Departmental News**

**Completion of Wind/Hydro Integration Feasibility Study.** The EPAct 2005, Section 2606 Wind/Hydro Integration Feasibility Study evaluates the use of Native American generated wind energy by Western to meet its firm power commitments and will provide a recommendation to Congress regarding the feasibility of a demonstration project. The public comment period will end February 13, 2009. Western anticipates report revisions and the production of a final report within several weeks of comment period closure.

Western will request Secretarial review and approval of Final Wind/Hydro Integration Feasibility Study Report and submittal to Congress.

**Media Interest:** Trade and local media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**Special Meeting with California Preference Power Customers Set.** On February 5, Western staff will host a special meeting with its California preference power customers to discuss the implications and the steps that Western intends to take to ensure a seamless transition to the California Independent System Operator's new market redesign initiative. That initiative, known as Market Redesign Technology Upgrade, is scheduled to begin on April 1, when the CAISO will deploy a new, 4,000 node locational marginal pricing paradigm. The new market initiative is designed to refresh and update legacy business systems and applications in place since the CAISO's start up (April 1, 1998), and to correct market design flaws revealed during the 2000-2001 California energy crisis. The purpose of the meeting is to educate the customers about implications of operating in the new, redesigned market paradigm and to assure that their transition will be as seamless and orderly as possible.

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**Transmission Agency of Northern California Transmission Project.** The Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC) proposes to develop transmission lines in Northern California to enhance reliability, transmit renewable resources and other energy from source to load, increase the load carrying capability of the existing transmission system, and enhance the operability and reliability of the California-Oregon

Transmission Project and the Central Valley Project transmission system. TANC has asked Western and other utilities to participate in the proposal. TANC will be the lead state agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, while Western will be the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are expected to be cooperating agencies in the environmental analysis. Within the next 30 days, Western expects to publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement in the *Federal Register*.

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association TechAdvantage Conference.**

Western staff will represent the U.S. Department of Energy Wind and Geothermal Technology Programs at the 2009 NRECA TechAdvantage Conference, February 12-16, 2009, in New Orleans. Western will exhibit the U.S. DOE Wind and Geothermal Power Technologies Program booths and distribute technology transfer information to approximately 10,000 electric cooperatives and interested parties attending the event. Western is also coordinating two technology transfer posters on wind and geothermal that will be exhibited at the conference. Additionally, Western is coordinating the 8th annual Wind Cooperative of the Year award which will be presented to the winning cooperative at the TechAdvantage Conference on Saturday, February 16, 2009.

**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 trade and national media inquiries about the impact of the economic stimulus package on Western.

**VI. FOIA Requests**

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

# DOE WEEKLY REPORT

## February 13, 2009

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

Office of the Chief Information Officer

### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY REPORT

February 13, 2009

#### I. Schedule

**February 17:** The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Administrator Steve Wright will speak to the Northwest Industrial Energy Efficiency Summit in Portland. The meeting is being sponsored by the Department of Energy as part of its Save Energy Now Initiative to achieve a 25 percent reduction in industrial energy intensity over 10 years. BPA has assisted with the planning and logistics for the conference.

**February 20:** The Administrator will participate in a press conference to be held by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington. The press conference will be in Vancouver, Washington and will discuss economic recovery legislation.

**February 25:** The Administrator is Chairman of the United States Entity for the Columbia River Treaty. The United States Army Corps of Engineers makes the other component of the United States Entity. Each year, the Canadian and United States Entities meet with a technical review body established under the Treaty, the Permanent Engineering Board. This year, the meeting is in Vancouver, B.C., on February 25, to review the prior year's Treaty business. Deputy Administrator Steve Hickok 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**

**Transmission Project Decisions:** BPA expects to issue a news release to regional media about its decision to proceed on design and environmental review of a set of new transmission facilities needed to serve requests for transmission service submitted in its 2008 Network Open Season (NOS). BPA conducted the 2008 NOS to provide a more effective long-term transmission queue management tool and determine which facilities may be needed to meet the demand for new transmission service requests, much of which are for new wind generation.

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**VI. FOIA Requests**  
Nothing to report.

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

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

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Steve Isakowitz has no leave or travel planned for the week of February 16, 2009.

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**II. Departmental News**

Nothing to report

**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**

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

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report.

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**II. Departmental News**

**Congressional Schedule:**

The House and then the Senate are each expected to hold final floor votes and pass the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act today, and then adjourn for the Presidents' Day recess. They will reconvene on February 23, 2009.

**Congressional Site Visits and Events:**

On February 16, Representative Martin Heinrich (D-NM) plans to visit SNL for a tour and briefings.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328; Kimberly Rasar, 202-586-3839

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On February 17, Senator Robert Bennett (R-UT) plans to visit the Moab Site for a tour and briefings.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

On February 18, Representative Ben R. Luján (D-NM) plans to visit LANL for a tour and overview briefing.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328; Kimberly Rasar, 202-586-3839

On February 18-19, four Idaho-based staffers of Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) are scheduled to tour the Idaho National Laboratory facilities.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Steve Lerner, 202-586-4370; Brad Bugger, 208-526-0833

On February 19, Senator John Ensign's (R-NV) staff is scheduled to visit the Nevada Site Office.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Betty Nolan, 202-586-7328; Kimberly Rasar, 202-586-3839

On February 19, members of the Kentucky congressional delegation, their staff, and state and local officials will participate in an event at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant site

to note completion of construction of the depleted uranium hexafluoride conversion facility.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Steve Lerner, 202-586-5470

On February 20, the entire Idaho congressional delegation is scheduled to tour the new Center for Advanced Energy Studies and take part in a grand opening ceremony at the new facility in Idaho Falls.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Steve Lerner, 202-586-4370; Brad Bugger, 208-526-0833

**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**

**February 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 February 17, 2009.

**II. Key Departmental News**

Nothing to report

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

**Morehouse College's Founders Day program** - A Senior staff member of the Office of Minority Economic Impact will participate in Morehouse College's Founders Day program on February 13-14, 2009. The program will highlight the academic achievements of Morehouse students and DOE's support of the college's science and technology program.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Annie Whatley, 586-4620

**Business Opportunity Session (BOS)** - The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization will host a BOS session on February 19, 2009, in room 1E-245 of the Forrestal building from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. An overview is given on "How to Work with DOE." This BOS will target Small disadvantaged Businesses in support of "African American Heritage Month." Targeted program offices present their current and potential contracting requirements. Presenters for February's meeting will include Program Managers from DOE Headquarters, and Kent Hibben, for Energy Efficiency. Questions and answers are exchanged.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Kent Hibben, 586-7377

**GOVConnectX Conference** - The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will participate in a local monthly conference sponsored by GOVConnectX. This month's conference, which will be held on February 20, 2009, and will be attended by Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Nick Demer 586-1614

**2009 Washington, DC Regional Science Bowl** - The Office of Minority Economic Impact and Diversity in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) will co-sponsor the 2009 Washington, DC Regional Science Bowl. The Bowl is

scheduled for February 21, 2009 at UDC. The Regional Science Bowl is an academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge in all areas of science.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Amanda Quinones, 586-0691

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

Nothing to report

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**V. Press Inquiries**

Nothing to report

**VI. FOIA Requests**

Nothing to report

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report

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**OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
**WEEKLY REPORT**  
**T**  
**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule for Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Rita Wells**

Rita Wells has no travel scheduled during this reporting period.

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**II. Departmental News**

**Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) Researcher Wins Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer.** The Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) has selected Dr. Khalil Amine and the Argonne National Laboratory as winners of the 2009 Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer for successfully transferring Lithium Titanium Oxide Spinel Anode System for High-Power Lithium-Ion Batteries to the private sector. The award, presented annually, recognizes laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology developed by a federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** David Howell, 202-586-3148

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**High-Level Honduran Delegation to Visit National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, CO, February 23.** A high-level delegation from Honduras, including Honduran President Jose Manuel "Mel" Zelaya Rosales, is to visit NREL on February 23. Accompanying him will be Minister of Energy Rixi Moncada, Ambassador Roberto Bermuda Flores and U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Hugo Llorens. President Rosales also seeks to meet with Colorado Governor Bill Ritter while in Colorado.

**Media Interest:** Local press

**Program Contact:** Christopher Powers, 303-275-4742

**U.S. Wind Industry Takes Global Lead.** The U.S. wind energy industry broke a global record in 2008 by installing 8,358 megawatts (MW) of new capacity, bringing our Nation's total wind energy capacity to 25,170 MW. The United States now claims the largest wind energy capacity in the world, taking the lead from Germany, which had 23,903 MW at the end of 2008. This rapid growth breaks all previous records; installed wind capacity grew by 50 percent, continuing the industry's swift growth of recent years. Wind energy now produces enough electricity to power approximately seven million households while avoiding nearly 44 million tons of carbon emissions—this is the equivalent of taking more than seven million cars off the road. The wind energy industry's expansion demonstrates the potential for wind energy to play a major role in providing our nation with clean, inexhaustible, domestically produced energy. For information on U.S. wind energy capacity by state, visit <http://www.awea.org/>.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Megan McCluer, 202-586-7736

**FEMP Implements Standby Power Consumption Recommendations, February 6.**

On February 6, FEMP implemented new recommendations for standby power consumption for integrated computers, VCRs, TV/VCR/DVD combos, telephones and fax machines through its Buying Energy Efficient Products program. FEMP guides federal agencies in purchasing highly energy efficient products. These products are reviewed and updated periodically to ensure the highest energy efficiency levels. Products are added or removed from the purchasing requirements list based on market conditions. One criterion of efficiency is standby power consumption due to requirements set by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Federal buyers are required to purchase products with low standby power. FEMP recommends adding standby power requirements for set-top boxes, digital to analog converter boxes, and dropping consideration of external power adapters.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Stephen P. Walder, 202-586-9209

**FEMP Participates in Green Military Symposium, February 3.** On February 3, FEMP presented and participated in *Green in the Military II*, a symposium hosted by the Hampton Roads Green Building Council and the Society of American Military Engineers – Hampton Roads Post. The event attracted more than 500 participants and included sessions related to federal goals for energy efficiency, green building, and renewable energy. The keynote speaker was Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine. During the event, FEMP was presented with an award in recognition of its work towards an environmentally sustainable future.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Matt Gray, 202-586-0067

**Fuel Cell Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA) Electrocatalyst Shows Potential to Exceed DOE's 2015 Platinum Group Metal (PGM) Total Content.** Through a project funded by DOE's Hydrogen Program, 3M has developed a single-cell automotive fuel cell MEA using less than 0.2 g PGM/kW of a PtCoMn electrocatalyst. This accomplishment has the potential to exceed DOE's 2015 total PGM content target for fuel cell stacks of 0.2 g PGM/kW. Reducing the cost of fuel cell systems is considered a key technical challenge to fuel cell commercialization and reducing PGM content is essential to this effort.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Kathi Epping Martin, 202-586-7425

**AFDC Station Locator Goes Mobile.** The Clean Cities program recently launched the Mobile Alternative Fueling Station Locator, which allows drivers to use their cell phones, Blackberries, or other personal handheld devices to find the five closest biodiesel, electricity, E85 (ethanol), hydrogen, natural gas and propane fueling sites. This convenient tool uses the Google Maps website to automatically generate maps to fueling sites and lists each station's contact information and business hours. Detailed driving directions and an instant phone connection to the station can all be accessed at [www.afdc.energy.gov/stations/m/](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/stations/m/). The mobile locator is part of the Alternative Fuels and Advanced Vehicles Data Center (AFDC) Web site ([www.afdc.energy.gov](http://www.afdc.energy.gov)). It was

developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which manages the AFDC, and supported by the Vehicle Technology Program's Clean Cities subprogram.

**Media Interest:** Trade press

**Program Contact:** Shannon Shea, 202-586-8161

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

#### **Northwest Energy Efficiency Industry Summit, Portland, OR, February 17.**

Representatives of DOE and the Northwest Food Processors Association will sign a *Save Energy Now* Compact Agreement announcing an industry-wide target of reducing energy intensity (energy use per unit of output) by 25 percent in ten years. This ambitious goal demonstrates the continued leadership of the Northwest region and the possibilities that exist throughout the country to reduce carbon emissions, improve U.S. competitiveness, sustain jobs, and fortify the manufacturing sector. The agreement signing will be attended by representatives of Idaho National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the Bonneville Power Administration. Executive roundtables with Pacific Northwest industrial stakeholders and government representatives will follow the signing ceremony.

**Media Interest:** Regional and trade press

**Program Contact:** Jim Quinn, 202-586-5725

**Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, Arlington, VA, February 18-19.** The Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) will host a meeting on February 18 and 19. HTAC was authorized by Section 807 of EPACT 2005 to advise the Secretary of Energy on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Program. Agenda items include a discussion of the role of hydrogen and fuel cells in the new Administration, new hydrogen and fuel cell policy analysis, the effect of hydrogen and fuel cell market growth on U.S. employment, research progress in the development of low and non - Platinum catalysts, and the HTAC annual report.

**Media Interest:** None

**Point of Contact:** Michael Mills, 202-586-6653

### **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 during this reporting period.

### **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

**ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Nothing to report

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**II. Departmental News**

Nothing to report

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

**Request from Chairman Bingaman Regarding the Increasing Spread Between Gasoline and WTI Crude Oil Prices.** The Chairman has asked EIA to provide information on the relationship between gasoline and oil prices by February 23. There is also increasing press interest in this issue, so in addition to preparing the response to Chairman Bingaman we will provide a memorandum for the Secretary. A discussion of the issue is provided in the February 4 edition of EIA's This Week In Petroleum at <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twiparch/090204/twipprint.html>.

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Media Interest: **High**

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 February 10, 2009, EIA released the February 2009 Short-Term Energy Outlook. Highlights of this report are: (1) U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decline by 2.7 percent in 2009, with decreases in domestic energy consumption for all major fuels. Economic recovery is projected to begin in 2010, with 2.2 percent year-over-year growth in GDP; (2) WTI prices are projected to average \$43 per barrel in 2009 and \$55 in 2010; (3) retail gasoline prices are projected to average

\$1.95 per gallon in 2009 and \$2.19 per gallon in 2010; (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 \$5 per Mcf in 2009, but then increase in 2010 to average almost \$6 per Mcf.

**Media Interest:** High

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

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## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEEKLY REPORT

February 13, 2009

### I. Schedule

Acting Assistant Secretary, Inés Triay will attend a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Paducah Site February 18-19, 2009. Meryle Sykes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget, will act in her behalf during that time.

### II. Key Departmental News

**HAMMER Hits a Million Safe Work Hours:** The HAMMER Training and Education Center has reached one million hours of safe work as of January 2009. This represents a long record of safe workdays at the facility since July 2000. HAMMER embraces the principles of the Voluntary Protection Program and Integrated Safety Management which has significantly contributed to this achievement.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Jim Spracklen, 509-376-4227

**Initiation of Remediation at 100-B/C Area at Hanford Site:** Washington Closure Hanford initiated remediation at the 100-B/C Area the week of February 2, 2009, meeting Tri-Party Agreement Milestone M-16-94A, "Initiate remediation at 100-B-28 Pipeline," due March 16, 2009. Completion of remedial actions at the 100-B/C Area, with the exception of the 100-C-7 waste site, is required to complete by November 30, 2010. The 100-C-7 waste site has chromium soil contamination reaching depths of greater than 35 feet and is being targeted as a site for bioremediation.

**Media Interest:** None

**Project Contact:** Tom Post, 509-376-3232

**The Office of Environmental Management Supports Promising New Technology for Management of Solid Radioactive Wastes:** Hot Isostatic Processing (HIP) is a promising technology for the management of solid radioactive wastes. It provides a means of controlling any hazardous off-gas and of encapsulating and immobilizing solid wastes that occur in a multitude of sizes and shapes. Currently, a test demonstration is being performed using HIP with a calcine surrogate that mimics the wastes in the Idaho National Laboratory bin sets. The HIPped product of these surrogates was subjected to the Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) and the results are encouraging.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Steven L. Ross, 202-586-5042

**The Office of Environmental Management Co-Hosts Long-Term Monitoring Technical Forum to Develop Innovative, Cost Effective Groundwater Monitoring Methods:** The Office of Environmental Management, Groundwater and Soil Remediation Program Office and Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL),

sponsored a technical forum on long-term monitoring in Atlanta, Georgia on February 11-12, 2009. The purpose of the forum was to identify cost-effective and efficient groundwater monitoring tools, systems, and information management techniques. Long-term monitoring costs are estimated to be generally over one-third of the life-cycle cost of cleanup at most DOE sites. Developing innovative groundwater monitoring methods to reduce these enormous costs will help in efficiently reducing the footprint at DOE sites. Fifty groundwater monitoring experts registered for the forum with affiliations from Legacy Management, other federal agencies, National Laboratories, and academia, as well as private industry.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Skip Chamberlain, 301-903-7248

**Systems Modeling Collaboration Between the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE):** EM staff is developing a White Paper that will describe how improvements in systems modeling capability could provide large benefits to the EM deactivation and decommissioning mission. On February 6, EM staff met with NE representatives to gather information on modeling challenges and to scope out areas of common interest. A number of common challenges were identified, including modeling software verification and validation, quality control, integration of existing models (end-to-end modeling), and use of advanced computational resources already present within the Department. How to resolve these issues will be an area of ongoing collaboration. In addition, the issues of data quality control and model integrity (verification and validation) cut across all DOE science-related program offices and will likely require coordination with program offices other than EM and NE.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contacts:** John Shultz, 301-903-2422; Monica Regalbuto, 202-586-2413

**Weapons and Equipment Transfer/Excess:** The Richland Operations Office (RL) is completing plans to transfer \$1.5M worth of weapons and equipment to the Idaho Operations Office. In addition, RL is in the process of providing excess weapons to local law enforcement agencies. These transactions are expected to be completed within the next month.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Hugh Harris, 509-376-2189

### **III. Upcoming Events or Matters of Secretarial Interest**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Acknowledging Completion of Physical Construction of the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF6) Conversion Project in Paducah, KY:** A celebration of this milestone is scheduled for February 19, 2009, at the Paducah Site. Guests include Senator Jim Bunning, representatives from the offices of Senator Mitch McConnell and Congressman Ed Whitfield, Inés Triay, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, and local community leaders. The event will also include

media. The Paducah DUF6 Conversion Project achieved Physical Construction Complete (PCC), on December 19, 2008.

**Media Interest:** Congressional. Regional

**Program Contact:** John Sheppard, 270-441-6804; Lauren Milone, 202-586-2932

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

Nothing to report

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**V. Press Inquiries**

Nothing to report

**VI. FOIA Requests**

Nothing to report

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications**

Nothing to report

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**OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Der**

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No travel or speaking engagements reported through March 6.

**II. Key Departmental News**

**Multiple NETL Events Scheduled by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).** The 2009 Annual Meeting of the AAAS—the world’s largest federation of scientific and engineering societies—is featuring several sessions organized and presented by NETL staff February 12-16 in Chicago. NETL Director, Carl Bauer, will conduct a workshop titled, *The Future of Energy: Planet Earth Faces Tough Choices*, examining the primary drivers of sound energy strategy and the significant role science and engineering play in the energy arena. In a second workshop, Associate Director, Charles Zeh, discusses NETL’s broad, leading-edge energy research portfolio. NETL staff will also conduct a scientific symposium on the *Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide: The Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships Initiative*. In addition, NETL human resources specialists will conduct a workshop on *How to Apply for Federal Employment* to review research-related career opportunities, the benefits of federal employment, and how to prepare an effective employment application package.  
**Program Contact:** Joe Culver, 304/285-4822

**Turkish Utility Shows Interest in FE-developed Coal Drying Technology.** At a meeting organized by the U.S. Trade & Development Agency (TDA), officials of the Turkish Electricity Generation Company expressed interest in lignite coal drying technology now being demonstrated in cooperation with NETL at the Great River Energy (GRE) Coal Creek Station in Underwood, ND, under the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI). NETL participants at the meeting highlighted the technology’s potential for improving power generation efficiency from Turkish coals with high ash, moisture, and sulfur contents. GRE has since offered a proposal through TDA to investigate the feasibility of applying the technology at the Turkish utility.  
**Program Contact:** Scott Smouse, 412/386-5725, Sai Gollakota, 304/285-4151

**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

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**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

No leave or travel plans.

**II. Departmental News**

**COURT UPHOLDS DOE'S CANCELLATION OF FFTF PROCUREMENT**

FFTC Restoration Company, LLC v. United States (Fed. Cl.). The court issued an opinion and order upholding DOE's decision to cancel a procurement solicitation for deactivation and decommissioning of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at Hanford. In this action the plaintiff sought bid preparation costs, bid protest costs, and attorney's fees with respect to the cancelled FFTF procurement. (D. Crockett, GC-31, 586-1465)

~~**EXTENDED BRIEFING SCHEDULE SOUGHT FOR CHALLENGE TO EPA YUCCA RULE**~~

State of Nevada v. EPA (D.C. Cir.). EPA filed an unopposed motion to establish an extended briefing schedule. In this case, the State of Nevada has petitioned for review of EPA's rule establishing radiation protection standards for Yucca Mountain. (J. Taylor, GC-31, 586-7530)

**PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION DENIED IN BSL NEPA CASE**

Tri-Valley CAREs v. DOE (N.D. Cal.). The court denied the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. This is an action by an environmental group and private citizens alleging that DOE has violated NEPA by failing to prepare an EIS for a Biosafety Level 3 facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The court found that the plaintiffs do not have a likelihood of success on the merits of their claims attacking DOE's determination not to prepare an EIS and the adequacy of DOE's terrorism analysis. While the court agreed with the plaintiffs' contention that DOE failed to include significant information about two 2005 anthrax shipping incidents (violations of DOE packaging requirements that did not result in illness or injuries) in the EA, the court found that the plaintiffs had not demonstrated any actual injury from that omission. (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**

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

**February 12, 2008**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Key Departmental News**

Nothing to report in this area.

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

**DOE Corporate Mentoring Program:** On Tuesday, February 10, 2009, the Enterprise Training Service Division kicked off the DOE Corporate Mentoring Program. Two sessions were held, one live at the HQ Building in the morning and a WebEx session in the afternoon. There were a total of 75 in attendance for the Mentoring Connection Training Session. The training covered the agency program, the different types of mentoring relationship, and techniques to best benefit from the experience. There are currently 54 mentors and 75 protégés enrolled in the program. The next activity of the program is scheduled for March 24, 2009, introducing the first DISC assessment session with *matched* protégé and mentors.

**Media Interest:** None

**Contact Person:** Ernita Collins, 202-586-7020

**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**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Cases Received:**

The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) received no new cases.

**Hearings Conducted:**

No hearings were conducted during this week.

**Decisions Issued:**

**Personnel Security (10 C.F.R. Part 710)**

On February 9, 2009, an OHA Hearing Officer issued a decision finding that an individual's access authorization should be restored. The Hearing Officer found that the individual had sufficiently mitigated the security concerns concerning his pathological gambling. In reaching this determination, the Hearing Officer found that the individual's psychologist's opinion that the individual was exhibiting adequate evidence of rehabilitation to be entitled to greater weight than the DOE psychologist's opinion to the contrary. Also, the Hearing Officer concluded that, given the individual's household income, his gambling losses were not so severe as to put him in a position where he would be vulnerable to improper financial inducements or likely to commit financial crimes, such as espionage. OHA Case No. TS0-0663 (Robert B. Palmer, 287-1449)

**Whistleblower (10 C.F.R. Part 708)**

On February 12, 2009, a Hearing Officer issued an Initial Agency Decision in which she denied a Complaint of Reprisal filed by Dean P. Dennis against his former employer, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) under 10 C.F.R. Part 708. In his Complaint, Mr. Dennis alleged that during his employment tenure with NSTec, he made several disclosures protected under Part 708 and that NSTec terminated him in retaliation for his protected disclosures. In the Decision, the Hearing Officer determined that Mr. Dean made one protected disclosure regarding an unauthorized tracking software that had been installed on his classified computer system, and that there was temporal proximity between Mr. Dennis' protected disclosure and his termination. The Hearing Officer determined nevertheless that NSTec had proved by clear and convincing evidence that it would have terminated Mr. Dennis even if he had not made a protected disclosure. In reaching this finding, the Hearing Officer found that Mr. Dennis' behavior in the workplace that pre-dated his protected disclosure, most notably his aggressive pursuit of classified information without the requisite "need to know," and his seeming disregard

for the rules in the SCIF, caused NSTec management reasonably to decide that Mr. Dennis was unsuitable to occupy a position of major responsibility in a very secure environment. In addition, NSTec provided convincing evidence that the company had terminated other employees who had engaged in similar problematic conduct. OHA Case No. TBH-0072 (Ann S. Augustyn, 287-1525)

**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Fred Brown, [fred.brown@hq.doe.gov](mailto:fred.brown@hq.doe.gov), 287-1545

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## **OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

### **Hispanic Summit:**

On February 11, 2009, OCR proposed revisions to the Strategic Plan of the Annual Federal Hispanic Career Advancement Summit. Staff members of the Office will brief the Summit's planning committee on the proposed revisions at the upcoming planning meeting on Thursday, February 19.

**Contact:** Neil Schuldenfrei, x6-5687

### **Employee Concerns Improvement Initiative:**

On February 12, 2009, OCR conducted a televideo conference with DOE Employee Concerns Managers at various DOE field sites, to update them on the status of the Employee Concerns Improvement Initiative. Specifically, the agenda covered the draft new Order, currently in REVCOM; the recently completed Federal/Contractor employee survey; the new and improved database currently in testing; and new employee concerns program training modules. This briefing will facilitate further discussion on the Improvement Initiative at the DOE breakout meetings to be held April 2-3, 2009, at the National Association of Employee Concerns Professionals Conference in Florida.

**Contact:** Bill Lewis, x6-6530

**Media Interest:** No

**DOE Contact:** Bill Lewis, [bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov](mailto:bill.lewis@hq.doe.gov), 6-6530

- 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 HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

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

**February 12:** Met with directors from the Department of Labor (DOL) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that have Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) implementation responsibilities to discuss inter-agency coordination efforts. The HSS Deputy Chiefs and senior staff accompanied.

**February 18-20:** Travel to Nevada with DOL representatives to tour the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and Yucca Mountain facility. The HSS Deputy Chief for Operations is scheduled to accompany.

**February 25-26:** Travel to California to meet with the President of the University of California; participate in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H) Independent Oversight Inspection validation and close-out activities; and tour the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. The Deputy Chief for Enforcement and Technical Matters is scheduled to accompany.

**Schedule: Michael A. Kilpatrick, Deputy Chief for Operations**

See also Chief's schedule.

**February 24-25:** Travel to New Mexico to participate in the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Emergency Management Independent Oversight Inspection validation and closeout activities.

**March 1-5:** Travel to South Carolina to participate in the Savannah River Site (SRS) Safeguards and Security Independent Oversight Inspection validation and closeout activities.

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

See also Chief's schedule.

**February 18:** Participate in a cyber security demonstration for House Energy and Commerce Committee Staff at the Germantown offices.

**February 27:** Travel to Washington to participate in the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Nuclear Safety Independent Oversight Follow-Up Inspection validation and close-out activities.

**II. Departmental News**

**Annual Report to Congress on DOE Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB):** HSS anticipates providing the Annual Report to the Secretary for review and signature by February 27.

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC - East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Security Enforcement Investigation:**

In cooperation with the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and the Office of Public Affairs (PA), HSS is scheduled to conduct the on-site portion of the security enforcement investigation February 23-26 into the facts and circumstances surrounding the removal of classified matter from ETTP that occurred in 2007.

**Management Impact:** The resumption of this investigation follows the closure of the associated criminal case.

**Media Interest:** The closure of the criminal case regarding the removal of classified matter from ETTP was the subject of recent media attention.

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

**Russian Health Studies Program:** HSS is scheduled to lead key U.S. scientists to Ozersk, Russia, February 19-28 to work with Russian counterparts at the Mayak Production Association and the Southern Urals Biophysics Institute on epidemiological and historical dose reconstruction studies.

**Management Impact:** The studies are used by national and international standard-setting organizations for revising radiation protection standards.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Marshall Islands Program:** HSS is leading a team consisting of Headquarters and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) personnel, the new Chief of Clinical Services (CCS), a medical officer and nurse, and logistics support personnel on a medical mission to the outer islands of Utrök and Mejjatto February 11-27. DOE will also conduct community meetings at Utrök and Majuro to discuss radiological findings.

**Management Impact:** These activities satisfy Public Law 108-188 requiring DOE to manage the medical screening and environmental monitoring program at the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**DOE Affirmative Procurement and Recycling Report:** In cooperation with the DOE Office of Procurement, HSS anticipates submitting the DOE report on affirmative procurement and recycling to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) next week (February 20).

**Management Impact:** The report is required by Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, and is based upon data provided by DOE field and program elements.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Nuclear Quality Assurance (NQA) Audit of the Filter Test Facility (FTF):** HSS conducted the triennial NQA audit of the FTF contractor, Air Technique International (ATI), in Baltimore, MD, this week (February 10-11). The FTF performs independent inspection and testing of all High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters used in DOE facilities. The last NQA audit of FTF was performed in 2005.

**Management Impact:** The requirement for 100 percent independent testing of HEPA filters was stipulated in a letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) by the Secretary of Energy on June 4, 2001.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

#### **Other Government Agencies (OGAs) Classification/Declassification Training:**

1. HSS conducted a 4-day Historical Records Restricted Data Reviewers (HRRDR) course for declassification reviewers from various OGAs at the DOE Forrestal Building this week (February 9-12).
2. HSS is scheduled to present a Restricted Data (RD)/Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) briefing to students of the Department of Defense (DoD) Information Security Management course at the Defense Service School in Linthicum, MD, next week (February 18). Over 30 students from various DoD organizations will be in attendance.
3. HSS is scheduled to conduct a half-day HRRDR refresher course for the Department of State (DOS) Declassification Office reviewers in Washington, DC, next week (February 19).
4. HSS is scheduled to conduct a 4-day HRRDR course and a half-day refresher course will be conducted for declassification reviewers from the Air Force Technical Application Center at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, February 23-27.

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

#### **Independent Oversight Activities:**

1. National Training Center (NTC) Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities were conducted this week (February 10).
2. NNSA Service Center Personnel Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities were conducted this week (February 11).

3. NNSA Service Center Cyber Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities were conducted this week (February 11).
4. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite scoping activities are scheduled to be conducted next week (February 18).
5. Savannah River Site (SRS) Safeguards and Security Inspection: Onsite validation and close-out activities are scheduled to be conducted February 23 – March 3.
6. Sandia National Laboratories – New Mexico (SNL-NM) Emergency Management Inspection: Onsite validation and close-out activities are scheduled to be conducted February 24–25.
7. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H) Inspection: Onsite validation and close-out activities are scheduled to be conducted February 24–26.
8. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Nuclear Safety Follow-Up Inspection: Onsite validation and close-out activities are scheduled to be conducted February 25–27.

**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:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Schedule:**

- February 9: Personnel from the Savannah River Site DOE-IG office met with the Board to discuss the development of DOE seismic design criteria.
- February 17: The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management will brief the Board on topics selected by the Board.
- February 23-26: The Board will travel to Hanford for a site visit.

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

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael A. Kilpatrick, (202) 586-4399

- 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 LEGACY MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

- I. Schedule**  
Nothing to report

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- 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

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

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

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**Visit to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Environmental Management (EM) projects at Oak Ridge:** On February 3-6, 2009, representatives from the Office of Engineering & Construction Management, NNSA, and EM met with the project management teams for various projects to receive briefings and tour selected projects at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Lab.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** John White, (202) 586-3716

**Root Cause Analysis, Corrective Action Plan, Executive Steering Committee Meeting:** On Tuesday, February 11, 2008, a meeting of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) for improving Contract and Project Management was held concerning the ~~Root Cause Analysis Corrective Action Plan (CAP)~~. ~~Topics discussed included:~~

updates and planned milestones from all of the corrective measure (CM) organizational sponsors, and presentations from CM team #1 (Technical Readiness) and CM team #2 (Staffing Model) where considerable progress has been made.

**Media Interest:** None

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

**Certification Review Board Meeting:** The Project Manager Certification Review Board (CRB) is meeting Friday to certify up to eight new Federal Project Directors (to reach a total of about 280 FPDs). The Board will also be adopting process improvements designed to simplify the acceptance of Department of Defense training and streamline the selection, certification and retention of seasoned project managers from public and private industry.

**Media Interest:** None

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

**Electrochromic Window Demonstration Project:** The Office of Administration in partnership with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) installed an electrochromic window demonstration project in the EERE Conference Room in (6A-013). With this technology, the window’s tinting can be adjusted to allow more or less sunlight into the room. This technology allows the bottom portion of the windows to remain tinted during the day to reduce glare while the top portion of the windows remains clear to let in sunlight; thus reducing the need for electric lighting.

Once activated in early March, the overhead electric lighting will automatically dim as more sunlight enters the room and will brighten as less sunlight enters the room.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Michael Shincovich, (202) 586-1557

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

**IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

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**V. Press Inquiries**

**VI. FOIA Requests**

**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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**OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Acting Assistant Secretary R. Shane Johnson will be traveling to Idaho Falls, Idaho, to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the INL's Center for Advanced Energy Studies, and attend bi-monthly senior management meeting with INL and Idaho Operations Office.

**II. Departmental News**

**Standby Support Program Receives Advance Notice of Sponsor Intent to Request Conditional Agreement:** On February 3, 2009, the Florida Power Corporation notified the Department of Energy (DOE) of its intent to request a Conditional Agreement for Standby Support Delay Insurance in accordance with the instructions posted on the Office of Nuclear Energy Web site in December 2007. The advance notification relates to the Florida Power Corporation's proposal to build an AP 1000 nuclear plant in Florida. ~~The Florida Power Corporation submitted their Construction and Operating License to~~ the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on July 30, 2008, which was docketed on October 6, 2008. The Conditional Agreement between DOE and the sponsor for an advanced nuclear plant is the first of a two-step process to obtain a standby support contract with DOE.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Kenneth Chuck Wade, NE-30, 301-903-6509

**Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) National Scientific User Facility (NSUF) Experiment Selection Announcement:** The NE NSUF has announced results of their fiscal year (FY) 2009 solicitation for university experiment proposals. Selected for award were Utah State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California-Santa Barbara, and University of Wisconsin experiments. Also, two new partner facilities were selected to expand involvement in vitally needed research at the Idaho National Laboratory and to optimize the NE NSUF experimental process. These two partner facilities, the University of Michigan *Irradiated Materials Testing Laboratory* and the University of Wisconsin *Characterization Lab for Irradiated Materials*, will support testing of irradiated materials important to the nuclear research and development mission. Selected university experiments address, among other issues, the economic performance of nuclear systems and the critical need for the Nation's energy stability. Two of the selected experiments involve collaboration with national laboratories and other universities. A second FY 2009 solicitation for university experiment proposals is underway and will close in June 2009. The NE NSUF expects to select two to three more experiments for award from that solicitation.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Dan Funk, NE-32, 301-903-3845

**Hybrid Sulfur (HyS) Discussions with SASOL:** The Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) hosted a meeting in Aiken, South Carolina, with representatives of SASOL Technology (Pty) Limited on February 4, 2009. SASOL Technology is the research and development division of SASOL, a large South African petrochemical company that operates the largest coal-to-liquids synfuels plant in the world. As a result of their synfuels operation, SASOL is the largest greenhouse gas emitter in Africa. The use of external sources of hydrogen could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions by up to 50 percent. SASOL is investigating various methods to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and the purpose of the visit to SRNL was to discuss the status and potential of the HyS hydrogen production process. SRNL presented results of the ongoing Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative-supported research program on HyS, as well as summaries of various system studies that have been performed for HyS. SASOL will utilize this information as input to their ongoing internal evaluation of greenhouse gas emission abatement strategies and the development of future collaboration opportunities.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Carl Sink, NE-33, 301-903-5131

**Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Participating with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Basic Research on High-Temperature Gas Reactor (HTGR) Thermal Hydraulics and Reactor Physics:**

INL will participate in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) program review meeting on Basic Research on High-Temperature Gas Reactor (HTGR) Thermal Hydraulics and Reactor Physics. The meeting is scheduled for February 24-26, 2009, at Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, Texas. It will cover work being done in coupled reactor physics and thermal hydraulics modeling, separate effects tests for gas reactor thermal hydraulic phenomena, and scaling and design of an HTGR integral test facility. In addition to the participants from NRC, INL and the host, TAMU, other attendees will be from Oregon State University, the University of Michigan, Sandia National Laboratories, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Ray Furstenau, DOE-ID, 208-526-0193

**NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

**II. Departmental News**

**Event: Response to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Issuance of Enforcement Action:** On February 3, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) held a conference call with the EPA, Region 9, California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss the status of non-operating ground water treatment facilities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Main Site and EPA assessed fines and penalties. In late January, EPA had its technical contractor visit LSO to obtain information on LLNL's schedule and process for restarting the treatment facilities. EPA is still in the process of reviewing the data LLNL provided to the contractor. As a result, DOE requested a 15-day extension to the informal dispute period and on February 5, EPA granted the request which extends the informal dispute period until February 26. By February 11, EPA stated that they would provide comments to DOE on the restart process and schedule. On February 23, there will be a meeting with all regulatory agencies, at which time DOE will respond to EPA's comments. It is expected that some negotiations will take place at this meeting regarding the restart schedule and penalties associated with the enforcement action.

**Media Interest:** Local.

**POC:** Kathy Angleberger, NA-50, 301-903-8170.

**Event: Solid Fuel Propellant Fires Successfully Analyzed:** Solid fuel propellant fires pose significant hazard to the Nuclear Weapons Systems (e.g., W76 and W88) that are carried aboard rocket launch platforms. High fidelity multi-physics models to analyze these accidents (CALORE and FUEGO) have been under development and are currently being validated against experimental data obtained specifically for this purpose in the Weapons Systems Engineering Program at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). These validation experiments to obtain temperature data from a propellant fire plume are particularly challenging due to the presence of multiple thermal sources in the plume. Gas and particulate temperatures have been successfully extracted from these flames by observing and analyzing emission spectra, and these results have been reported in several journal articles and technical meetings. Recently, through joint collaboration with the New Mexico State University and University of Tennessee, a temperature for the burning molten aluminum droplet was obtained. The data was obtained from the SNL gas fired

propellant fire simulator. The determined temperature ~3000K is significantly higher than either the particle or gas temperature observed in propellant flames. Based on these results, further testing is planned.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** W. Roy-Harrison, NA-121.3, 202-586-9964; Walt Gill (SNL 1532), 505-845-3193.

**Event: Nevada Site Office (NSO) Protective Force Activity:** During January 5 – February 5, pursuant to DOE Manual 470.4-1, the annual security survey was conducted of Wackenhut Services, Incorporated, Nevada (WSI-NV). The composite rating was “satisfactory,” however, a subtopical area, Cyber Security, received an “unsatisfactory” rating. On February 6, WSI-NV completed a successful validation Force-on-Force (FoF) exercise, utilizing the resources of an Air Force adversary team. In addition, two Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs) were deployed to support the operation, proving the utility and force enhancement capabilities of surveillance aircraft in ground support. This was the second NSO FoF exercise to implement the use of UAVs.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Steve Scott, NSO, 702-295-5943.

**Event: B61 Life Extension Program (LEP) Phase 6.2/6/2A Status:** Delays continue to plague the B61 LEP Study, due to funding shortfalls, decision delay on the lead laboratory team assignment by NNSA, and more than one Nuclear Explosive Package option. SNL is the only site currently funded for Product Realization Team (PRT) activity, and we will be standing up the non-nuclear PRTs in order to make progress towards preserving the B61 NATO commitment.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Dr. L. Wayne Brasure, NA-122.2, 505-845-6944.

**Event: W80-1 Joint Test Assembly (JTA) 1R Flight Test:** On February 3, W80-1 JTA1R, Serial Number 1090, was flown. The test was completed and the JTA reached the target; however, preliminary review of the data indicated a potential anomaly. The data has been transmitted to SNL-NM for detailed analysis.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Monica Chavez, NA-122.25, 505-845-4506.

**Event: Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Facility (CMRR) Technical Independent Project Review:** The Office of Project Management and Systems Support led a team of 31 experts to evaluate the technical maturity of the CMRR project prior to obtaining the Administrator's approval to begin final design and to address the projects response to several DNFSB issues. During the period of January 27 through February 4, the review was conducted at Los Alamos. On February 4, an exit briefing was conducted. Seventeen Significant Concerns were identified by the review team which should be addressed prior to the start of final design. During the week of February 16, a briefing for the Administrator is scheduled.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Michael Hickman, NA-54, 202-586-8872.

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

**Event: NSO to Conduct Groundwater Open House:** On February 18, NSO will conduct a Groundwater Open House in Beatty, NV. The purpose of the Open House is to offer a forum for interested stakeholders to gain an understanding of NSO efforts used to address potential groundwater contamination. Information will focus on well drilling, monitoring, computer modeling, and how this information may impact the communities near Pahute Mesa.

**Media Interest:** Possible, local.

**POC:** Kelly Snyder, NSO, 702-295-2836.

**Event: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Letter on Disposition of Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) Evaluation Findings:** A December 16, 2008, DNFSB letter to the NNSA Administrator requested a report evaluating the disposition of findings resulting from NES evaluations from 2003 through 2008. The report is to detail the disposition of pre-start and post-start findings in NNSA's approval of each NES evaluation, and evaluate whether there are trends in the acceptance and resolution of findings that provide insight into the present stature and effectiveness of the NES function within NNSA. The report containing the analysis of the disposition of NES evaluation findings and the NNSA response letter are in the final stages for review and comment. NNSA's response to the DNFSB is due by February 16.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Dan Bruns, NA-122.11, 505-845-5953.

**Event: Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) to Visit SNL:** On February 17, Congressman Heinrich and several members of his staff are scheduled to visit SNL for briefings and tours.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Tami Moore, SSO, 505-845-5264.

**Event: Nevada Test Site (NTS) Tours:** On February 18, Shelby Hallmark, Director, Office of Workers Compensation Programs, and Rachel Leiton, Director, Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation, Department of Labor (DOL), will tour the NTS with DOE's Glenn Podonsky, Chief, Health Safety and Security Officer, and Mike Kilpatrick, Deputy Chief for Operations, Office of Health, Safety, and Security. This is an orientation tour for the DOL so they can better understand work locations associated with those former workers who are filing claims. On February 19, staff members from Senator John Ensign's (R-NV) office will receive a general orientation tour of the NTS.

**Media Interest:** None.

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

**Event: DOE/NNSA Nuclear Safety R&D Forum 2009:** On February 18-19, the Nuclear Safety R&D (NSR&D) Coordinating Group, chaired by Dr. Kevin Greenaugh, will host the first annual NSR&D Forum. The forum is part of the combined response to two DOE commitments related to NSR&D in the Implementation Plan for DNFSB

Recommendation 2004-1. The purpose of the annual forum is to: present NSR&D efforts at DOE and NNSA to the DOE/NNSA complex; to disseminate the results of NSR&D; and, to solicit input from the participants on the completeness (gaps, overlaps) of the NSR&D program, as well as comments and suggestions for improvements in the identification, prioritization, and funding processes at DOE and NNSA. The forum will open with an address by Larry Brown, DNFSB Board member, and there will be two panel discussions.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Helmut Filacchione, NA-121.1, 202-586-3237.

**Event: New Date--Enterprise Environment, Occupational Safety & Health (EEOSH) Workshop:** On February 18-19, the NNSA/HQ Office of Environment, Safety and Health will host this workshop at the NNSA North Las Vegas, NV Complex. The workshop is in accordance with DOE O 243.1, "Records Management Program," and therefore, will focus on recordkeeping capabilities associated with chemicals and industrial hygiene. EEOSH is an addendum to the Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System currently being used by NSO management and operating contractor. Attendees will include Federal and contractor personnel from across the complex including staff from the NNSA/HQ Chief Information Officer's Group.

**Media Interest:** None.

**POC:** Eric Allred, NSO, 702-295-1156.

#### **IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

#### **V. Press Inquiries**

**Event: NNSA Public Affairs:** This week, Public Affairs (PA) issued a press release announcing the shipment of additional surplus special nuclear material from LLNL to the Savannah River Site and Y-12 Plant. Administrator D'Agostino delivered remarks at the 2009 Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Annual Conference in Washington, DC, where he discussed NNSA's Complex Transformation plan. PA responded to the national, regional, and local media inquiries on nuclear nonproliferation, Lawrence Livermore shipment, and various other issues.

**Media Interest:** High.

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

On February 5, Ralph Vartabedian, National Correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times*, received a general orientation tour of NTS. The tour focused on current program work that NNSA does at the site. Mr. Vartabedian saw the U1a complex and the JASPER Facility. On February 6, Mr. Vartabedian interviewed NSO environmental management staff on current and past work associated with groundwater monitoring programs at NTS. No date has been given for publication of a story.

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

## **VI. FOIA Requests**

**Requester:** Mr. Peter Galison, Cambridge, MA.

**Date of Request:** February 2.

**Subject Matter:** Background information, including correspondence, drafts, original drawings, other images, and notes on the genesis of two Sandia reports:

- Kathleen M. Trauth, et.al, "Expert Judgement on Markers, "SAND 92-1382, UC-721, November 1993; and,
- Stephen C. Hora, et.al, "Expert Judgement on inadvertent human intrusion into the waste isolation plant," SAND 900-3063, UC-721, 1991.

## **VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

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

**II. Key Departmental News**

**OE Presents Results and Training at SANS SCADA Security Summit 2009.** On February 2-5, the SANS SCADA Security Summit featured a panel session on the *Roadmap to Secure Control Systems in the Energy Sector*, where project leads from OE's National SCADA Test Bed (NSTB) discussed Roadmap progress and energy cyber security. NSTB national laboratory representatives also discussed common control systems vulnerabilities based on assessments of 26 systems. Also as part of the panel, 85 control systems security representatives discussed findings from two NSTB projects: Bandolier, a continuous security monitoring tool, and ANTFARM, a passive network visualization tool. ~~NSTB also trained 35 participants, most of which were asset owners~~ from the energy sector, on intermediate control systems security.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Hank Kenchington, 586-1878

**OE Continues to Provide ESF #12 Support for the Winter Storms.** As a result of the severe winter storm that brought rain, ice, sleet, and snow to a broad area from Texas to the Northeast late January 26-28, ESF #12 was activated to deploy personnel as part of FEMA's coordinated Federal disaster response. The extreme weather impacted customers in AR, KY, OH, IN, MO, TN, WV and VA. ESF #12 staffed the FEMA Region IV Initial Operating Facility (IOF) in Frankfort, KY and assisted with overall national incident response and recovery operations, provided technical expertise, and supported FEMA and other Federal partners with energy infrastructure restoration planning. On February 7, ESF #12 moved to a FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) in Frankfort where our staff continues to play an important role in the response efforts including providing support for a Congressional staffer briefing.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Matt Rosenbaum, 586-1060 or John McIlvain, 586-9267

**DOE Participates In NASPI Executive Steering Group Meeting.** On February 10, in Phoenix, AZ, Phil Overholt represented OE at the North American SynchroPhasor Initiative (NASPI) Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting. This meeting focused on the proposed new NASPI leadership model where the ESG, NERC staff, and the newly-hired NASPI Project Manager will report directly to the NERC Board of Trustees' Technology Committee. DOE will interface with the Technology Committee, NERC staff and the Project Manager, and serve on the NASPI Leadership Team which will be

chaired by NERC staff. In 2008, leadership for deployment of the phasor network shifted to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) with OE shifting its focus to longer-range R&D to develop analysis tools and applications using phasor data. The ESG is chaired by Terry Boston, President and CEO of PJM and includes senior executives from the electricity industry across North America. The meeting agenda included an update on DOE's progress in developing communications architecture specifications for phasor network data management, a progress report on developing a roadmap for deployment of a phasor network across North America, and efforts to develop a nondisclosure agreement to cover sharing of phasor data among utilities and researchers. The ESG is committed to increasing its outreach to ask other utilities and asset owners to initiate or expand installation of their part of the phasor network, and to educating regulators on the importance of supporting installation of the network to increase grid reliability and respond to the 2003 blackout report that calls for this type of monitoring and control system to increase wide-area visibility, situational awareness, and prevent future blackouts.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Phil Overholt, 586-8110

**Meetings with Singapore Governmental Officials.** ISER's DAS Bill Bryan and staff traveled to Singapore and met with the heads of several agencies within the Singapore government. The meetings were held to discuss the reliability, survivability and resiliency of Singapore's energy infrastructure and SCADA systems. DAS Bryan attended high level meetings to discuss Singapore's use of DOE's national labs for the development of critical global supply chain modeling via a cost share mechanism. Additionally, DAS Bryan was asked if DOE would consider a bilateral partnership for information and technology sharing to assist in global energy infrastructure security and resiliency.

**Media Interest:** None

**Program Contact:** Carissa VanderMey, 586-0460

**Meeting with Brunei Ambassador and Minister of Energy.** ISER's DAS Bill Bryan and staff were invited by the Government of Brunei and U.S. Embassy to meet with the Ministry of Energy. The country of Brunei had just experienced severe flooding in which over 40% of the country lost power. This event brought on the invitation and led to the Government of Brunei seeking out DOE for assistance with Brunei's energy infrastructure and its security, reliability, survivability, and resiliency. A follow-on scoping visit by DOE technical experts is being scheduled in order to conduct an assessment and provide feedback/recommendations of their countries critical energy infrastructure needs.

**Media Interest:** Significant (television, radio and front page coverage)

**Program Contact:** Carissa VanderMey, 586-0460

### **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

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

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

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs Jonathan Shrier will be in Eilat, Israel, on February 14 – 17, 2009, to launch the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation on renewable energy and energy efficiency at the International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition. Deputy Assistant Secretary Carmen Difiglio will be Acting on February 17, 2009.

**II. Department News**

**International Energy Agency (IEA) CERT Meeting:** Deputy Assistant Secretary Carmen Difiglio represented the United States at the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Committee on Energy Research and Technology (CERT). The CERT oversees IEA's extensive network of international energy R&D collaboration and the IEA Secretariat's work on energy technology policy (e.g., the Energy Technology Perspectives publications). PI also maintains a close collaboration with the Secretariat on energy modeling.

**Contact:** Carmen Difiglio, 6-8436

**Media Interest:** None

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

**International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC):** PI and EERE will host the third preparatory meeting for the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) in Washington, D.C., on February 18 and 19. The meeting will continue and hopefully conclude discussion on the text of the Terms of Association establishing IPEEC, and begin discussion of the work program. The formal announcement that was discussed has been concluded and the IPEEC launch is expected to occur at the G-8 Energy Ministerial in May.

**Contact:** Phyllis Yoshida, 6-7954

**Media Interest:** None

**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.

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

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Acting Director Christopher A. Kouts will be on official travel to Las Vegas, Nevada, February 17–20, 2009.

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**II. Key Departmental News**

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Answers to Petitions to Intervene:** On February 9, 2009, the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) filed its answers to petitions to intervene on the Yucca Mountain license application. NRC staff opposed admission of all but 21 of the 321 filed contentions.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Jeffrey Williams, 202-586-9620

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

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**Update of the Yucca Mountain License Application:** OCRWM intends to submit an update to the *Yucca Mountain License Application (LA) for Construction Authorization* on February 20, 2009. NRC regulations require an update to the LA upon appointment of an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which NRC established last month. The submittal of the update is likely to generate media attention and other public inquiries.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Christopher Kouts, 202-586-6850

**NRC Implementation of Environmental Protection Agency Yucca Mountain**

**Standards:** On February 17, 2009, NRC will conduct an affirmation session on the final rule “Implementation of a Dose Standard After 10,000 Years” related to the licensing of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

**Media Interest:** Yes

**Program Contact:** Jeffrey Williams, 202-586-9620

**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

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**OFFICE OF SCIENCE  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Dr. Patricia M. Dehmer, Acting Director, Office Science, has no travel or leave plans this reporting period.

**II. Departmental News**

**Office of Science Hosts Booth at 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting:** The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science is hosting a booth at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), February 13-15, 2009, in Chicago, IL. The Office of Science booth highlights its science program offices, scientific user facilities, national laboratories, and its support of scientists at research universities nationwide. The booth is being staffed by DOE national laboratory scientists and Office of Science staff (including Acting Director Dr. Patricia Dehmer) offering information about DOE-supported research and funding opportunities. Across the aisle will be exhibits hosted by DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information, U.S. ITER Project Office, Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and National Energy Technology Laboratory. (For more information about the Office of Science presence at the AAAS annual meeting, please go to: <http://www.science.doe.gov/AAAS/index.htm>.)

**Media Interest:** Yes (science trades).

**Program Contacts:** Dr. Patrick Glynn, SC-2, 301-903-7671; Peter M. Lincoln, 202-586-9010, SC-44.4

**Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee Publishes Report on "New Science for a Secure and Sustainable Energy Future":** A new report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science provides a blueprint for using basic scientific research to meet the daunting energy challenges facing the United States. The report, "New Science for a Secure and Sustainable Energy Future," finds that fundamental changes are required in the ways we produce, store and use energy. The report addresses the three challenges of energy independence, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity, concluding that to meet these challenges the U.S. must reduce its dependence on imported oil, reduce its emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and replace the economic drain of imported oil with economic growth based on exporting a new generation of clean energy technologies. The report identifies three strategic goals required to meet these challenges: making fuels from sunlight, generating electricity without carbon dioxide emissions, and revolutionizing energy efficiency and use. The report was produced by the Office of Science's Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC). It follows a five-year effort to obtain input from thousands of scientists around the world on the limiting factors

and specific fundamental scientific bottlenecks blocking the widespread implementation of alternative energy technologies. The BESAC report was discussed at the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting during a February 13 symposium organized by Brookhaven National Laboratory on “Basic Research for Global Energy Security: A Call to Action.”

**Media Interest:** Yes (science trades).

**Program Contact:** Dr. Harriet Kung, SC-22, 301-903-0497

### **DOE-Sponsored Interns Present Their Research at the 2009 Annual Meeting of**

**AAAS:** The American Association for the Advancement of Science invited 18 undergraduate interns sponsored by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science to present their research in the Poster Session at the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago. Each year, the Office of Science’s Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTs) provides funding for more than 600 undergraduate students to participate in hands-on mentored research internships at one of the 17 DOE National Laboratories. Students write a final research paper to document their work at the laboratory; the top student papers are selected on a peer-reviewed basis for publication in the Office of Science’s annual *Journal of Undergraduate Research*. The AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the prestigious journal, *Science*. As part of its Annual Meeting, AAAS hosts an undergraduate Poster Session, which provides a forum for selected individuals to present their research. Since 2003, AAAS has partnered with the Office of Science to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding undergraduates by inviting DOE interns whose papers are to be published in that year’s *Journal of Undergraduate Research* to present their research at the AAAS Annual Meeting. The 18 DOE interns invited to present their research at the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting conducted their internships at nine DOE National Laboratories

**Media Interest:** No.

**Program Contact:** Bill Valdez, SC-27, 202-586-4479

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

#### **IV. Progress on EPACT Deliverables**

#### **V. Press Inquiries**

The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) sent a Politico reporter the link to a recently published BER workshop report on carbon recycling that discusses BER interest in algae as a research target in response to his request for information about and DOE R&D funding for algae-based carbon capture and sequestration.

In response to a query from a reporter for Nature Magazine, the Office of Science provided a written statement, attributable to Acting Director Dr. Patricia Dehmer, regarding the Office’s preparations to manage possible funding increases provided in the economy recovery package pending in Congress.

The Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) answered in writing questions from a Nanomaterials World reporter about BES-funded research into nanotech catalysts for ethanol fuel cells conducted by a scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

**VI. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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**SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION  
WEEKLY REPORT**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Kenneth E. Legg, Administrator –

The Administrator will attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, on February 15-18.

The Administrator will also attend the American Public Power Association (APPA) PMA Task Force Briefing on February 25 in Washington, DC.

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

**II. Departmental News**

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:**

The Administrator and other Southeastern staff will attend NRECA's 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting February 16-18, in New Orleans, LA. The meeting is an annual gathering of cooperative leaders from across the country.

**Media Interest:** No

**Program Contact:** Leon Jourolmon, 706-213-3835

**Southern Sub-region Security Coordinator Meeting:** Staff from Southeastern's Power Resources Division will attend the Security Coordinator meeting scheduled for February 19-20 in Andalusia, AL. This meeting will cover electrical system operational and reliability issues in the region, and will provide participants with an opportunity to share information relating to the system conditions they experienced during the previous summer.

**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**

**February 12, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Jon Worthington, Administrator

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**II. Key Departmental News**

The **Red River Valley Association Annual Conference** has been tentatively scheduled to take place on February 18–20, in Shreveport, Louisiana. The Red River Valley Association Annual Conference will address various topics concerning the water resource issues and projects in the Red River Valley.

**Media Interest:** None

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

The **Tulsa District has scheduled a meeting** with Southwestern at the Tulsa District Headquarters, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on February 24, to discuss the archeological impacts related to the implementation of the legislated seasonal pool at Broken Bow.

**Media Interest:** None

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

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**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**

**February 13, 2009**

**I. Schedule**

Schedule for Administrator - Timothy J. Meeks

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February 11-12	Sierra Nevada Region Customer Meeting, Rancho Cordova, CA
February 15-17	NRECA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
February 23-27	APPA's Legislative Rally, Washington, DC
March 9-11	Mid-West Board Meeting, Arlington, VA
March 17-18	Operations & Maintenance Meeting, Montrose, CO

(Acting: Tony Montoya)

**II. Departmental News**

**Section 1222 Transmission Expansion Solicitation Generates Interest.** Western received five responses by Jan. 5, 2008, expressing interest in engaging Western in a variety of transmission projects across Western's 15-state service area. Western solicited ~~interest in providing contributed funds for Western's participation in upgrading~~ Western's existing transmission facilities or constructing new transmission lines. The request, in response to authority granted to the Secretary of Energy in EPAct 2005, was to identify potential projects that would facilitate transmission of wind generation or other renewable generation sources to load centers as outlined in Section 1222. Proposed projects included those identified in Western's *Federal Register* notice as well as other potential development opportunities. Entities identified 13 proposed projects for consideration. All proposed projects would provide opportunities to deliver renewable resources to load centers. Western staff screened the responses and provided recommendations to the Administrator for potential next steps.

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**Western Governors Seek Comments on Renewable Energy Zones Information.** A public comment period is being held from February 2 to March 2, on areas that have been identified through the Western Renewable Energy Zones process as having high quality and developable renewable resources. The aim of the WREZ initiative is to expedite the development and delivery of electricity generated by renewable energy.

Several draft documents and a map are available for review and comment as well as background at: <http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/wrez/comments.htm>. The WREZ initiative was launched in May 2008 by the Western Governors' Association and includes 11 states, two Canadian provinces, and those areas of Mexico that are part of the Western Interconnection. Guiding the process is the Steering Committee comprising governors, public utility commissioners, Canadian premiers and U.S. federal officials. The committees and work groups that developed the package of materials open for public

comment include representatives from all levels of government, tribes, the renewable energy industry, utilities and environmental groups. A Western staff member serves on the technical committee and participates in several of the supporting work groups.

The WREZ project will generate: 1) Reliable information to support the cost-effective and environmentally sensitive development of renewable energy within each REZ and quantifying non REZ resources. 2) Conceptual transmission plans for delivering the energy from specified zones to load centers across the Western Interconnection.

The WREZ process will not override individual state efforts to identify lands for renewable energy generation. Rather, it will provide information and tools that can be used to examine scenarios for developing renewable resources, the transmission needed to bring them to market and the associated costs.

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**FERC Approves WestConnect Pricing Experiment.** On February 10, 2009, in FERC Docket No. ER09-409, *WestConnect*, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued an order accepting a Participation Agreement establishing the WestConnect Point-to-Point Regional Transmission Service Experiment and conditionally accepting regional transmission tariffs implementing the experiment, for a two year period, submitted by the participating jurisdictional transmission service providers. Although the Order approves the pricing experiment, it requires that the participants make a subsequent filing within 15 days that supports the use of the Dow Jones Palo Verde Electricity Index to monetize transmission losses during the experiment, and to amend certain minor errors in the regional tariffs. Western will be one of the participants in the experiment.

**Media Interest:** Trade media

**Program Contact:** Jack Dodd, 202-586-5581

**Western Files Comments on California Market Redesign.** In FERC Docket ER06-615, *California Independent System Operator Corp.*, Western filed its comments on the CAISO's readiness certification on February 6, 2009. Western raised significant concerns with the CAISO's proposed April 1, 2009, go live date for its Market Redesign Technology Upgrade. Included in these concerns were quality of settlements, modeling anomalies, code freezes, market re-runs, and untimely resolution of previously raised issues. Western continues to meet with the CAISO in attempts to resolve its issues by April 1.

**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 trade and national media inquiries about the impact of the economic stimulus package on Western. Western staff also responded to a trade media inquiry on the status of the environmental analysis for the NextGen Project, a proposed coal generation unit that would interconnect with Western's transmission system in South Dakota.

**VI. FOIA Requests**

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**VII. Grants, Economic Announcements, and Publications**

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