



EM Engineering & Technology: Reducing Technical Risks and Uncertainties in EM Projects

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Engineering and Technology Program

- Mission: To Identify Vulnerabilities and to Reduce the Technical Risk and Uncertainty of Environmental Management (EM) Programs and Projects
- Vision: Engineering and Technology (E&T) initiatives will provide the engineering foundation, technical assistance, new approaches, and new technologies that contribute to significant reductions in risk (technology, environmental, safety, and health), cost, and schedule for completion of the EM mission.



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Strategic Planning for Engineering and Technology Program Activities

- Strategic Planning Approach
 - Implement Roadmap Initiatives
 - Select critical, high-risk, high-payoff projects
 - Complete Technology Readiness Assessments (TRAs)
 - Complete External Technical Reviews (ETRs)
 - Review Risk Management Plans
 - Conduct Technical Workshops and Exchanges
- Collaboration with National Laboratories, Private Sector, and Universities for innovative technologies and technical exchanges
- Work with Federal Project Directors (FPD)



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Draft Engineering and Technology Roadmap Revised

- Incorporates Stakeholder comments and adds strategies for spent nuclear fuel and nuclear materials.
- Identifies technology risks in Waste Processing, Groundwater and Soil Remediation, and Deactivation & Decommissioning/Facility Engineering.
- Establishes strategic initiatives to address technical risks and identifies expected outcomes when implemented.
- Is a “living document”.
- Will be available at <http://www.em.doe.gov/Pages/EngTech.aspx>



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Roadmap Implementation

- Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP) being developed to implement Roadmap
 - overall EM-20 Plan
 - more detailed plans for the three offices
- Staff from national laboratories and site offices across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex has been involved in formulating the E&T MYPP
- MYPP will address:
 - prioritized work activities, required budget, and schedule
 - major products/deliverables, performance metrics, and performer selection



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Sharing Technical Expertise and Lessons-Learned to Reduce Risk and Technical Uncertainties

- Technology Exchange meetings have assured maximum benefits from outcomes of R&D performed across the DOE complex
- Focused workshops
 - Cementitious Workshop (December 2006)
 - Aluminum/Chromium Workshop (January 2007)
 - Technical exchanges among Savannah River, Idaho, and Hanford on waste processing projects held in March and October 2007
 - In situ Decommissioning Workshop (September 2007)
 - Proceedings posted on Waste Processing website
- Common Issues teleconferences have shared technical design, construction and operational experiences of mutual interest to EM waste projects
 - Cross Flow Filter Testing – sharing of test information among sites
 - Cesium Ion Exchange Research – future benefit to multiple sites
 - TRAs – input for process development
 - Pulse Jet Mixers Erosion Wear – improving the testing parameters
 - Fire Resistant Structural Design – lessons learned in design
 - Waste Transport and Pipe Plugging- lessons learned from operations
 - Pilot Plant – lessons- learned from pilot plant testing



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External Technical Reviews & Technology Readiness Assessments Help to Resolve Risks and Uncertainties

- High profile EM projects prompted the use of ETRs, for example
 - Tank 48 at Savannah River
 - Demonstration Bulk Vitrification System (DBVS) at Hanford
 - Salt Waste Processing Facility Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at Hanford
 - at Savannah River
 - Groundwater and Soil Remediation at Hanford and Paducah
 - Hanford Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF)
- Important to organize engineering and scientific expertise, through a structured review process to address difficult technical problems or resolve project management issues
 - ETRs support EM projects in addressing their risks and uncertainties
 - E&T works with FPD to put together ETR charters and lines of inquiry using subject matter experts
 - Identify and document risks in Risk Management Plans
 - Incorporate Lessons Learned and Response Plans into EM projects
 - ETR and TRA Guidance Manuals under review for comments



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ETRs & TRAs (continued)

- o TRAs along with development of technology maturity plans (TMPs) early in project key to reducing risks
 - Provides status of given technology relative to attributes described in each successive Technology Readiness Level (TRL) (1- 9 or, in other words, what development has been done at a given point in time
 - Provides a tool for DOE EM to evaluate and communicate status of technology development in a consistent manner; process is structured and systematic
 - Developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); mandatory for Department of Defense (DOD) by Congress
 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends TRA process for DOE (GAO 07 336); draft FY2008 House Language requires it

- o Eight Pilot TRAs conducted by DOE-EM to date
 - Hanford WTP Laboratory, Low Activity Waste (LAW) Facility and Balance of Facilities (three TRAs)
 - WTP High- Level Waste (HLW) Facility
 - WTP Pre Treatment (PT) Facility
 - Hanford River Protection Project LAW Treatment Alternatives
 - Hanford K- Basins Sludge Treatment Process
 - Savannah River Tank 48H Waste Treatment Technologies



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Conclusions

- Roadmap identifies strategies to reduce risks and improve technologies and processes at EM sites.
- ETRs have been proven useful in supporting critical EM decisions.
- TRAs are a promising tool to delineate technical risk; TMPs are key to reducing project risk.
- Broader collaboration through technical exchanges—such as WM'08—is needed to ensure mission success



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