

Waste Management Today

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Good morning and thanks for checking in with Waste Management Today. Here are the stories we're following:

EM Procurement Chief 'Fairly Confident' of Small Biz Set-Asides for New LANL Cleanup Contracts

The top procurement official in the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management said yesterday that he is "fairly confident" some of the legacy cleanup work to be performed at Los Alamos National Laboratory will be set-aside for small businesses. DOE is in the midst of acquisition planning for a set of post-Fiscal Year 2016 cleanup contracts at Los Alamos, which are being developed as part of the Department's plans to transition management of legacy cleanup activities at the lab to EM from the National Nuclear Security Administration. EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management Jack Surash said he is "fairly confident" that the new contracts will include "one or more" small business opportunities in remarks at the Waste Management conference, being held in Phoenix. Surash declined to comment, though, when asked what types of cleanup work at the lab is being considered for small businesses, saying, "I want to stop painting before I get into a corner."

Surash also said he expects DOE to issue by the end of March a final Request for Proposals for a planned small business contract to manage Nuclear Regulatory Commission-licensed facilities at DOE's Idaho site and the Fort St. Vrain facility in Colorado. "We are running a little behind on this one," he said, adding that "no big issues" were the cause for the delay. DOE has also begun acquisition planning for information technology support contract for EM headquarters that Surash said he is "fairly confident" will be set aside for small businesses. The expected value of the contract is \$20 million to \$80 million.

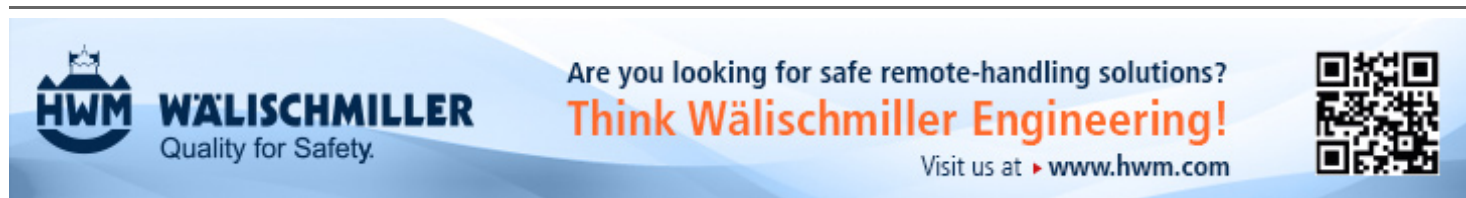
Savannah River Working With NNSA to Limit Impacts in '16 of H-Canyon Budget Cuts

In order to limit the impacts of budget cuts to new processing missions at Savannah River's H-Canyon facility, the Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office is working with the National Nuclear Security Administration on H-Canyon funding, DOE Savannah River Manager Dave Moody said yesterday at the Waste Management Conference in Phoenix. Potentially impacted programs by cuts in DOE's Fiscal Year 2016 budget request include a new effort to downblend highly enriched uranium from research reactor fuel stored at the site's L-Basin, as well as a campaign to provide feedstock for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. But Moody said he believes those programs can continue in the next fiscal year. "The budget process is long and involved and really doesn't get put in concrete until we've actually had an appropriation from Congress," he said. "We're early in the process and none of us are setting our hair on fire. We see a number of options on how we will meet the commitments."

Instead of the new downblending mission, DOE's '16 budget request states it will focus on "safe, secure storage" at L-Basin. However, a new program to process liquid highly enriched uranium from Canada is supported in the latest budget request, and some of the L-Basin fuel can be processed in concert, Moody said. "Our goal for Fiscal '16 is to continue on with the nuclear material work that we currently have going. We have funded programs from Canada in dispositioning Canadian liquids. In order to do that, we have to process with that material some of our spent fuel out of the basin," he said. "We are taking advantage of funding this year to preposition some of those materials so we can operate H-Canyon—even at the president's budget we will continue to operate H-Canyon. But

we believe that along with our partners at NNSA we'll have a full complement of nuclear materials activities in Fiscal '16."

The FY'16 level for spent nuclear fuel stabilization and disposition at Savannah River, which covers some H-Canyon activities, is \$34.4 million, down \$8.7 million from current funding levels. The request also includes \$234.6 million for Funding for nuclear materials stabilization and disposition, a cut of \$12.2 million from current levels. "In Fiscal Year 2016 the nuclear materials budget presents a challenge to us. The Department is committed and NNSA and EM are actively working together to meet that challenge," Moody said. "On one hand, NNSA is capturing proliferant materials worldwide and Savannah River Site is a key cog in that machinery, bringing those materials in and dispositioning them. So we are working with our partners in NNSA on how we will address the funding shortfalls."



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Preview: Outcome of Waste Confidence Decision Panel

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel takes center stage this morning during a panel session titled "Outcome of the US NRC Waste Confidence Decision Rulemaking on Spent/Used Fuel." Following a court mandated re-do, the NRC based its rule on a generic environmental impact statement that found the environmental impact of storing spent fuel on-site was small in most categories, including an indefinite timeframe. This final rulemaking, though, removed language concerning a timeline for the availability of a repository after the Commission determined that was a policy decision outside the NRC's regulation jurisdiction. The panel will take place at 10:15 a.m. in room 102BC. Panelists include: Keith McConnell, Special Assistant to the Office Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, NRC; Carrie Safford, Acting Assistant General Counsel, High-Level Waste, Fuel Cycle and Nuclear Security, NRC; Francis "Chip" Cameron, Executive Consultant, Zero Gravity; Stefan Anton, -Ing., Vice President of Engineering, Holtec International; Jonathan Rund, Esquire, Assistant General Counsel, NEI; and Geoffrey H. Fettus, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council.

Key Questions for the panel include: Did the NRC properly address all NEPA concerns in its response to the rulemaking? Was the NRC warranted in its recent dismissal of a petition to vacate its findings? What are the chances the rule is vacated by a federal court a second time? What are the repercussions of the rulemaking's indefinite time frame safety case?

Preview: U.S. Regulatory Challenges and Innovations Panel

This morning a panel of state regulators will explore U.S. regulatory challenges and innovations related to nuclear waste cleanup. The regulators from states with nuclear waste facilities and sites across the Department of Energy complex will also discuss lessons learned on streamlining the regulatory process and remedies for expediting cleanup. Meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. in location 103AB, the panel will feature: Kimberly Brinkley of the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control; Suzanne Dahl of the Washington State Department of Ecology, John Price, Tri-Party Agreement Session Manager of the Washington State Department of Ecology; Daphne Neel, Chief of the Bureau of Land and Waste Management with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and Rusty Lundberg, Director of the Utah Division of Radiation Control.



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Preview: Panel on Fukushima Cleanup


A panel of experts involved at the Fukushima-Daiichi cleanup will update the conference today on the progress at the cleanup site in a session titled "Progress Towards Clean-up of the Fukushima Daiichi NPP and Vicinity." Four

years later, Japan and the Tokyo Electric Power Company have made significant strides, especially in the water contamination prevention and treatment at the site, but more difficult tasks like fuel debris removal still loom large at the site. The panel will take place at 2:30 p.m. in room 103AB. Panelists will include: Kazuhiro Suzuki, Managing Director, Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF); Horst Monken-Fernandes, Environmental Remediation Specialists, Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Unit, IAEA; Martin Wenban, Vice President, Strategic Nuclear Programmes, Amec Foster Wheeler; John Raymont, President, Kurion, Inc.; Jim Braun, President, AVANTech, Inc.; Steve Rima, Vice President, Radiological Services and Engineering, Amec Foster Wheeler; and Wayne Johnson, representing the US DOE National Laboratories.

Key questions for panel include: How much progress has been made in the last four years, and what is the timeline for the cleanup going forward? How can Japan address its waste disposal problems? What efforts are underway to better increase worker safety at the site? Have any innovative strategies emerged in the decommissioning process?

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