



Program Update

October–December 2007

Welcome to the October–December 2007 issue of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Program Update. This publication is designed to provide a status of activities within LM. Please direct all comments and inquiries to LM@hq.doe.gov.

Goal 4

Weldon Spring Interpretive Center Building Enhancements

Located about 30 miles west of St. Louis, Missouri, the Office of Legacy Management Weldon Spring Site is unique in having both an active long-term surveillance and maintenance program and an interpretive center that is widely utilized by the community.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) cleanup was substantially complete in 2002. Along with a \$900 million cleanup, including constructing a 45-acre disposal cell, the site took a one of a kind approach in developing and operating an interpretive center to ensure educational institutional control and community involvement commitments would continue to be met. The U.S. Department of Energy's philosophy is to make the site a community asset which would ultimately facilitate long-term understanding of the conditions that remain.

The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center (the Center) opened for operations in August 2002.



Old asphalt under the Interpretive Center canopy was removed.

Public awareness and use of the Center has rapidly increased. Its facilities, available for use by community-based organizations and other non-profit groups, are in great demand. Community groups use the meeting room several evenings each week because daytime use of the room is dominated by school groups. Additionally, having only one meeting room available for visiting

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Goal 4

Uranium Leasing Program Lease Tracts Solicitation Package

The solicitation package for bids on Uranium Leasing Program lease tracts is expected to be available at the end of January 2008. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will continue to accept contact information from parties interested in participating in the bid process until the solicitation period begins. DOE will notify interested bidders who have provided their contact information when the solicitation period commences.

Parties interested in participating in this solicitation process should send their contact information, including contact name and title, company affiliation, mailing address, phone numbers, and e-mail address to

U.S. Department of Energy Uranium Leasing Program
2597 B 3/4 Road
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Information may also be sent to ULP-BiddersList@LM.doe.gov



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Weldon Spring Interpretive Center Building Enhancements

groups limits the site's ability to conduct planned educational activities, especially during bad weather when outdoor activities are not possible.

LM determined that in response to increasing community use, the building should be enhanced and modified in order to provide the greatest flexibility for public use. A well-constructed canopy at the back of the building offered the potential for valuable new space. After structure and space needs were evaluated, the canopy and pad proved to be a cost-effective area to enclose as a four-season room.

The work was advertised and competitively awarded to a local construction firm. Work began in October and the new classroom/meeting room is expected to be available for community use in January 2008.



Top photo: A new concrete foundation was poured under the canopy. Bottom photo: An interior view of the new meeting room. A drop ceiling will be installed and the entire space will be freshly painted.

Pension and Benefit Continuity Team Prepares Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

The Pension and Benefit Continuity team will be preparing a budget for fiscal year (FY) 2010. This requires forecasting pension and medical costs for about 12,000 participants in the pension and medical benefit programs at six closed sites: Fernald, Grand Junction, Mound, Pinellas, Portsmouth/Paducah, and Rocky Flats. This is a major undertaking every year because these costs make up two-thirds of the Office of Legacy Management's (LM's) budget.

LM provides funding for pension and retiree medical and life insurance benefit programs for more than 12,000 contractor retirees at the six closed sites. It is expected that these programs will cost more than \$145 million in FY 2008, with 5-year costs totaling more than \$700 million.



Goal 1

U.S. Department of Energy Establishes Task Force to Update Environmental Justice Strategy

The February 11, 1994, Presidential Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, tasked each federal agency to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission. The agencies were to do so by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. The executive order also required the agencies to prepare a strategy for integrating environmental justice into all agency activities.

In response to Executive Order 12898, the U.S. Department of Energy (the Department, or DOE) prepared and issued its environmental justice strategy and conducted a series of activities to implement this strategy. Both the executive order and the strategy require that the Department establish and maintain an integrated approach for identifying, tracking, and monitoring environmental justice activities.

A Department-wide Environmental Justice (EJ) task force prepared the Departmental strategy in 1995. Now we need to update the strategy because of improvements in the way we now do business. In that regard, we have re-established the DOE-EJ Task Force (task force), which started its work earlier this year. Offices represented on the task force include

- Legacy Management
- Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
- the Chief Financial Officer
- Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Economic Impact and Diversity
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Environmental Management
- General Counsel
- Health, Safety and Security
- Science
- National Nuclear Security Administration
- Carlsbad Field Office
- Richland Operations Office
- Savannah River Operations Office
- Western Area Power Administration

The task force is reviewing the current EJ strategy and EJ activities Department-wide with the intent of determining what elements of the strategy should be retained, updated, or deleted. The task force will also develop a 5-year plan associated with the revised strategy. Once the task force completes its work, the new strategy and the 5-year plan will be given a Department-wide review for comments and suggestions. After Department-wide approval, a public announcement of the draft strategy and 5-year plan will be made and then the stakeholder review and comment period will commence.

For more information contact: Melinda Downing, DOE Environmental Justice Program Manager, at (202) 586-7703 or Melinda.Downing@hq.doe.gov.

Goal 2

Records Storage Facility Solicitation for Offers Issued

The Solicitation for Offers (SFO) for the Morgantown, West Virginia, Records Storage Facility was issued on December 17, 2007, by the General Services Administration. The SFO requested proposals from two responsive offerors by February 28, 2008. The SFO included the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Program Requirements for the facility, other requirements for the approximate 25,000 square feet of office space and 38,500 square feet of records storage and operations space, and a proposed facility floor plan that is given to the offerors for their use and is not a program requirement. Specific design requirements to support the U.S. Green Building Council and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) are incorporated into the SFO. The SFO requires a Silver certification rating under LEED and awards the offeror for gaining points toward a LEED Gold certification. The Records Storage Facility project is on schedule to be occupied in December 2009.



Goal 5

Office of Legacy Management Support Services Contract

In June 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) awarded to S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller) a \$170 million, 3-year prime contract, with a 2-year renewable option, for surveillance and maintenance, records, and information support associated with more than 70 sites across the nation. These sites contributed to the production of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy research, but now no longer support DOE missions. The Stoller award represents one of the largest 100 percent small business contracts with DOE and is led by a subcontract team consisting of

- Source One Management Inc.
- SAIC
- JGMS, Inc.
- Triumph Technologies, Inc.
- EG&G, a division of URS Corp.
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- ProLogic, Inc.
- Commodore Applied Technologies, Inc.

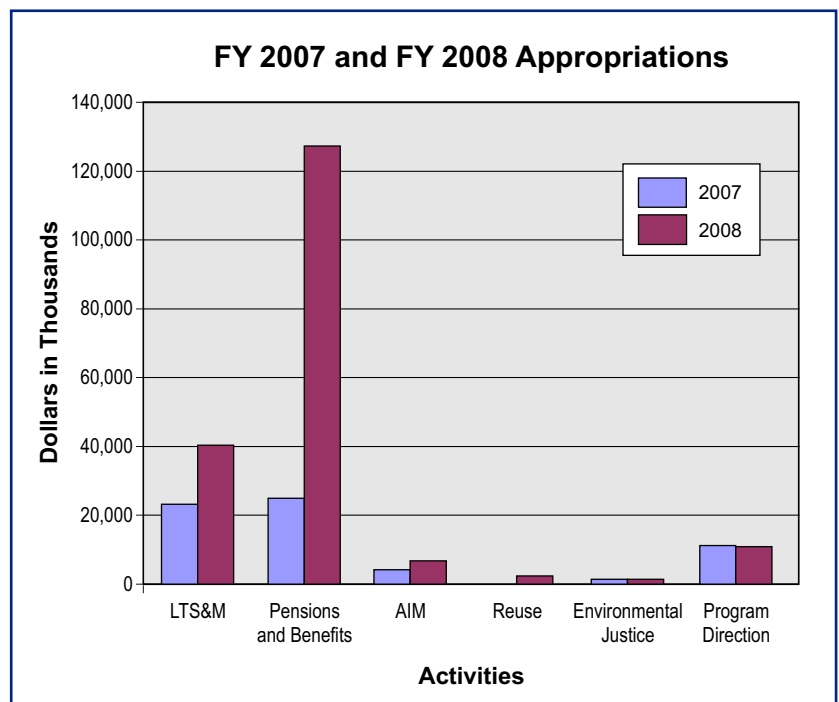
LM is aggressively transitioning into the new Legacy Management Support Services contract following resolution of three protests filed by competing bidders. In October 2007, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) denied two protests and the Small Business Administration's Office of Hearing and Appeals denied the third protest. Additional information on GAO bid protests is available at <http://www.gao.gov/decisions/bidpro/bidpro7.htm>. The contract transition activities will be complete by March 2008.

Goal 5

Consolidated Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2008

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the Consolidated Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Funding for the Office of Legacy Management (LM), its programs, and its goals for FY 2008 is included in the appropriation. The FY 2008 appropriation is the first appropriation since LM's standup in FY 2004 that is aligned with LM's five goals. This alignment will ease planning, management, and reporting of program progress and financial expenditures.

The FY 2008 appropriation funds the goals and the sites that LM was responsible for in FY 2007. In general, funding for these sites remains stable. The appropriation also transfers responsibility and provides funding to LM for the support activity at the eight Nevada Offsites, the Rocky Flats Site, and the Fernald Site. The appropriation, as anticipated and planned, roughly triples LM's budget. The greatest budget impact is in Pensions and Benefits, with a smaller but significant increase in Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance. There is also a new budget line in FY 2008 funding to support Beneficial Reuse of transferred sites. Funding contained in the appropriation is considered adequate to support LM program goals in FY 2008.





Goal 4

The Fernald Preserve Visitors Center Pursuing LEED Gold Certification

In keeping with the mission and goals of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center, a former warehouse, was planned, designed, and is being renovated in a manner that will allow the building to achieve certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The USGBC sponsors the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system which is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. Achieving LEED certification provides independent third party verification that a building project is environmentally responsible and a healthy place to work and visit. To achieve LEED certification a building project must satisfy a number of design and operational prerequisites. There are four different levels of certification: Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The Fernald Preserve Visitors Center is pursuing Gold certification and will be the first such certified building amid the Office of Legacy Management complex.

The environmental and economic benefits in a certified green building include enhanced and protected ecosystems and biodiversity, improved air and water quality, reduced solid wastes, conservation of natural resources, reduced operating and maintenance costs, and increased energy and water efficiency.

The Fernald Preserve Visitors Center is on schedule for completion in June 2008 and will be a major step in the Office of Legacy Management's commitment to create an educational and cultural asset for the surrounding communities in southwestern Ohio.



Work proceeding on the proposed Fernald Preserve Visitors Center. Recycle and reuse of materials from the building is a high priority.

New E-mail Addresses for Morgantown Staff

Office of Legacy Management (LM) staff in Morgantown, West Virginia, recently transitioned to new e-mail addresses. To ensure communication is not lost during this transition, automated replies notify anyone who sends an e-mail to an old e-mail address that the address has changed. Additionally, LM staff will have all e-mail forwarded from their old e-mail address to their new address. However, attachments are not forwarded from the old address—only the message in the e-mail. Therefore, messages containing attachments sent to an old address will have to be resent.



Goal 1

Office of Legacy Management Activities on the Navajo Nation

Background

Title I of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (Act) required the cleanup of 22 inactive uranium-ore processing sites and vicinity properties. While the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) authority for surface cleanup expired in September 1998, there is no end date for the remaining groundwater remediation. Four of the original uranium processing sites (Mexican Hat, Utah; Monument Valley, Arizona; Shiprock, New Mexico; Tuba City, Arizona) are located within the Navajo Nation. In 1983, DOE and the Navajo Nation entered into a cooperative agreement to facilitate the surface remedial action of the four sites. Funds provided by DOE to the Navajo Nation for cooperation under the agreement were directed to the Navajo Nation's Division of Natural Resources. The National Environmental Policy Act compliance documentation, which includes the Environmental Assessments as well as the Remedial Action Plans, was developed with the participation of the Navajo Nation.

The characterization of surface and subsurface radiological contamination involved a phased approach that included an aerial assessment, a mobile scan, and on-site sampling to delineate the extent of contamination according to specific removal criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). More than \$100 million was spent on the surface remediation of the four processing sites and on the construction of three disposal cells. That agreement expired in 1998 along with the surface cleanup authority, and a new cooperative agreement was initiated for groundwater cleanup that remains in place.

Groundwater Cleanup at Milling Sites on the Navajo Nation

DOE-funded groundwater remediation and long-term surveillance and maintenance at the four Navajo Nation sites was \$3.4 million in 2007 and estimated to be \$3.2 million in 2008. The groundwater compliance strategies are reviewed annually with the Navajo Nation to track progress toward cleanup standards in the groundwater plumes. Based on our knowledge of the sites, DOE does not believe that additional funding would significantly accelerate the groundwater cleanup



Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site

at the three processing sites where active remediation is in progress. DOE will continue to work with the Navajo Nation using the currently approved plans to complete groundwater remediation responsibilities.

Groundwater Cleanup at the Tuba City, Arizona, Site

At the former milling site near Tuba City, the Office of Legacy Management (LM) removed 259 million gallons of contaminated water from the aquifer and extracted 558 pounds of uranium, 867,000 pounds of nitrate, and 2,146,000 pounds of sulfate. After distillation under vacuum at 145 degrees Fahrenheit, 227 million gallons, or 88 percent of the extracted water has been returned to the aquifer to aid in flushing contaminants. The cleanup goals for this site are 44 micrograms uranium per liter and 250 milligrams sulfate per liter.

To improve energy efficiency at the Tuba City plant, solar heating is being installed to preheat the incoming contaminated water through a heat exchange with the clean water. This plant improvement is projected to save approximately 210,000 kilowatt hours per year and about \$16,000 per year in electrical power expenses. Given a rather high escalation for electrical power costs in the area, the expected break-even point is in 11 years, while the plant will operate for at least 20 years.

Interagency Effort to Address Environmental Impacts to the Navajo Nation

LM staff participated in an interagency workgroup meeting in December to discuss uranium contamination of two sites near Tuba City. The sites are the

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New U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Employees

Tracy Ribeiro

On October 31, 2007, Tracy Ribeiro joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Office of Site Operations as a site manager.

Tracy's previous experience included 13 years of environmental investigations for a quasi-government group that supported the Virginia Department of Transportation and for private companies. For the last seven years, Tracy was a nuclear engineer with a navy corporate group that supported the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (a joint DOD/DOE program). She served as the contracting officer's representative on multiple corporate mixed or radioactive waste treatment and disposal contracts, was the consulting lead for PCB regulatory interpretations, and served as the liaison for site visits and inspections.

Tracy's duties with LM will include contract oversight as a site manager for numerous sites regulated under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA), for which LM has long-term surveillance and maintenance responsibilities. Some of these sites have not yet transitioned to LM and Tracy will be working with private companies operating under Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses to facilitate that transition.

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Office of Legacy Management Activities on the Navajo Nation

Highway 160 Site and the Tuba City landfill. These sites were not identified by DOE for clean up during the surface remedial action program. LM is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the EPA to develop sampling and treatment options at the landfill site. This effort addresses some of the concerns expressed by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform led by Congressman Henry Waxman. The BIA and EPA are exploring funding for the effort. Activity by LM is limited unless cleanup authorization under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act can be renewed. LM will lead a technical information exchange meeting in February to better define agency roles and to understand the concerns of the Navajo Nation.

Mark Kautsky

On November 25, 2007, Mark Kautsky joined DOE-LM Office of Site Operations as a site manager.

Mark's experience spans more than 20 years as a contractor employee in service to DOE. His career has included

- Five years of site characterization and groundwater modeling support to the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Moab Tailings and Disposal sites project; 10 years of site characterization and groundwater flow and transport modeling in support of the UMTRA Ground Water Project sites in Durango, Grand Junction, and Rifle, Colorado; Monument Valley and Tuba City, Arizona; and Shiprock, New Mexico.
- Five years of site characterization at Air Force Plants 4, 36, and PJKS.
- Two years of environmental characterization of the Monticello site.

Prior to that, Mark was a Graduate Research Fellow at the Desert Research Institute in Reno, and an engineering geologist working on various construction projects and watershed investigations. Mark holds a BS degree in geology from Sonoma State University in California, and a MS degree in hydrology/hydrogeology from University of Nevada-Reno.

Mark's new duties with LM will be similar to Tracy Ribeiro's, including contract oversight as a site manager for numerous sites regulated under UMTRCA. Mark will also utilize his groundwater expertise managing the Central Nevada Test Area and Shoal sites, which are part of a group of sites referred to as the Nevada Offsites, where DOE's predecessor agency conducted subsurface nuclear detonations.



Legacy Management Goals



Goal 1: Protect human health and the environment through effective and efficient long-term surveillance and maintenance.

This goal highlights the Department's responsibility to ensure long-term protection of people, the environment, and the integrity of engineered remedies and monitoring systems.

Goal 2: Preserve and protect legacy records and information.

This goal recognizes Legacy Management's commitment to successfully manage records, information, and archives of legacy sites under its authority.



Goal 3: Support an effective and efficient work force structured to accomplish departmental missions and ensure continuity of contractor worker pension and medical benefits.

This goal recognizes the Department's commitment to its contracted work force and the consistent management of pension and health benefits. As sites continue to close, the Department faces the challenges of managing pension plan and health benefits liability.

Goal 4: Manage legacy land and assets, emphasizing protective real and personal property reuse and disposition.

This goal recognizes a departmental need for local collaborative management of legacy assets, including coordinating land use planning, personal property disposition to community reuse organizations, and protecting heritage resources (natural, cultural, and historical).



Goal 5: Improve program effectiveness through sound management.

This goal recognizes that Legacy Management's goals cannot be attained efficiently unless the federal and contractor work force is motivated to meet requirements and work toward continuous performance improvement.