



**Network of National Laboratories for
Environmental Management and
Stewardship (NNLEMS)
Charter**

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1. Purpose

The Department of Energy (DOE) Offices of Environmental Management (EM) and Legacy Management (LM) jointly sponsor the Network of National Laboratories for Environmental Management and Stewardship (NNLEMS or Lab Network). The NNLEMS establishes a partnership of Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) managed by DOE. This partnership advances the effectiveness of the scientific and technical expertise in the DOE National Laboratory Complex (National Labs) toward meeting the objectives of both EM's legacy nuclear waste cleanup mission and LM's long-term surveillance and maintenance mission. As FFRDCs, 16 of the Department's 17 National Labs conduct business in a manner befitting their special relationships with the Government, to meet special long-term research or development needs for DOE. They operate in the public interest with objectivity and independence and remain free from organizational conflicts of interest. To fulfill their FFRDC responsibilities to their sponsoring agency, the National Labs are afforded access to Government and supplier data, including sensitive and proprietary data, as necessary to support the sponsor's mission, which may include input and assessments related to sponsor decisions and strategies.

The NNLEMS functions as an interface or focal point for information exchange, consensus building, and coordination to facilitate EM's and LM's ability to access and leverage the capabilities of the National Labs. The NNLEMS is led by the Director of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), as part of SRNL's responsibilities as Lead (or Corporate) Lab for both EM and LM.

2. Functions

The NNLEMS carries out the following functions in support of the EM and LM Missions:

Response – Identify and coordinate resources for technical support to address emergent events associated with DOE clean-up and long-term monitoring activities.

Review – Identify and coordinate resources for independent technical review of DOE plans or activities.

Collaborate – Supplement existing and ongoing DOE innovative applied research through collaboration with DOE contractors, DOE staff, other federal agencies, academia, and industry.

Policy - Provide scientific and technical analysis to DOE and to stakeholders as directed by DOE regarding legacy waste cleanup, disposal, and long-term stewardship policy options and issues.

Planning - Provide integrated science and technology perspective to support strategic planning for EM and LM at national and individual site levels.

Resource - Coordinate and serve as gateway for DOE and its contractors into the broader set of 17 National Labs with EM- and LM-related capabilities that have been developed and supported across all DOE offices.

Consult – Provide technical expertise to inform DOE contract decisions and language, funding allocations, and technical feasibility of contractor proposals consistent with terms and conditions of the appropriate organizational conflict of interest mitigation plan and in compliance with DEAR 952.209-72 requirements.

Examples of the types of activities that could be executed through the NNLEMS include, but are not limited to:

- Technical Support – Provide technical expertise to address specific issues, technology implementation difficulties, and/or specific programmatic requests, such as:
 - Developing solutions that reduce technical risk and uncertainty;
 - Resolving engineering issues in implementation of technologies;
 - Providing Independent reviews to inform DOE as well as regulators and other stakeholders;
 - Providing technical and engineering capabilities to strengthen existing applied science programs, support DOE contractors and augment DOE staff as needed; and
 - Advising EM and LM Headquarters, Site Offices and contractors of new technologies and potentially transformational paradigms that can be applied to EM and LM missions.
- Independent Assessments – Provide review of technical or programmatic issues as requested by DOE and/or Congress.
- Policy Studies – Provide program analysis and implementation impact studies through systematic examination of the nature, causes, and effects of the establishment of public policies involving DOE operations, with emphasis on reducing risks and schedule/lifecycle costs.
- Supporting DOE Response to Congressional Inquiries – Provide information to support requests for information from Congressional Offices that require a written response in a short turnaround time frame.

The National Labs will actively engage with DOE Headquarters, DOE Site Offices, contractors and others to stay abreast of EM and LM challenges and emergent needs.

3. Core National Labs and Representatives

The NNLEMS is comprised of a representative who is an employee of the management and operating contractor at each of the National Labs that are collocated with the EM sites with major cleanup and legacy management challenges and from the other National Labs with stewarded competencies for EM and LM research activities. The National Laboratories at major EM sites include: SRNL, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Idaho National Laboratory (INL), and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), including LANL and SNL offices located at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The National Labs supporting the EM and LM missions with stewarded competencies include Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). SRNL, PNNL, INL, LANL, ORNL, and SNL are the Core National Labs of the NNLEMS. In the case of NETL the NNLEMS representative shall be a NETL federal employee. Other DOE National Labs will be engaged, as needed, to support Lab Network activities and NNLEMS objectives.

4. Leadership – Membership and Responsibilities

EM Liaison: The EM liaison is responsible for National Lab stewardship, coordination of resources, and guidance/ oversight to the NNLEMS related to EM needs. This includes guidance on program needs, identification of relevant resources and expertise, and serving as a coordination point across EM offices and sites, including the EM Technology Development Office, for interfacing with the Lab Network. This responsibility is in addition to the responsibilities associated with EM's role in stewarding the SRNL and distinct from the responsibilities of other DOE offices that steward other labs in the Lab Network. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM (EM-2) will designate the EM liaison. The EM liaison will also facilitate DOE-wide engagements and mutual cooperation with LM in establishing NNLEMS priorities, projects and funding.

LM Liaison: The LM Liaison will work directly with the Office of Legacy Management and members of the Lab Network to fulfill LM needs. The LM Director (LM-1) will designate the LM liaison. LM-1 will also ensure that the EM Liaison is aware of on-going activities to ensure continuity of programs under the Under Secretary for Science's purview.

Chair: The Chair of the NNLEMS will be the SRNL Laboratory Director. The Chair reports to the EM Assistant Secretary (EM-1) and LM-1 and works to ensure the overall effectiveness of the NNLEMS. As Chair of the NNLEMS, the SRNL Laboratory Director will coordinate the activities of the Network, but will not be responsible for making decisions about the allocation of resources among the participating national laboratories. This is an inherently federal function

that will be made by federal staff in consultation with the cognizant Contracting Officer for the respective laboratory.

Co-Chair: The Co-Chair of the NNLEMS will be the Laboratory Director or Deputy Laboratory Director from another laboratory within the set of Core National Labs. The Co-Chair works with the Chair to ensure the overall effectiveness of the NNLEMS. The Co-Chair is a one-year rotational position; the position of the first Co-Chair will be a representative from PNNL. After his/her one year is completed, successive Co-Chairs will rotate first from INL, followed by Co-Chairs from LANL, ORNL, and SNL in turn. The Co-Chair position may be declined and would shift to the next laboratory in the successive order.

Executive Director: The Executive Director of the NNLEMS will be a laboratory person appointed by the Chair and Co-Chair. The role of the Executive Director is to work on behalf of all the National Labs, to facilitate progress on EM and LM activities, and to coordinate day-to-day Lab Network needs. The Executive Director also maintains minutes and schedules for the Lab Network.

Core Laboratory Representatives: For each of the Core National Labs, an official representative will be designated by the respective Laboratory Director or Chief Research Officer. Core National Lab representatives are responsible for assuring that the full complement of capabilities and resources from their laboratories relevant to the NNLEMS. All resources (advisory, technical, administration, support, etc.) in support of NNLEMS will be funded through the appropriate office (EM or LM) utilizing existing DOE processes.

Ad hoc Members: Representatives of other DOE National Labs will participate, as needed, based on the work undertaken by the NNLEMS. Ad hoc members may also be appointed as additional representatives from the Core National Labs as needed, based on the work undertaken by the NNLEMS. Ad hoc members are approved by the Chair and Co-Chair with concurrence from the EM and LM Liaisons. Ad hoc members must be Federal government employees or employees of the management and operating contractors of the National Labs.

Participation of Non-Members: NNLEMS may engage others, such as industry experts, educators, and nonprofit stakeholders, for the purpose of receiving information from such stakeholders or when those stakeholders are presenting their individual advice and recommendations to DOE. To avoid any appearance that non-governmental entities are fixed members of the NNLEMS, or that the NNLEMS is giving preferential treatment to any individual or group, the NNLEMS must avoid the regular and systematic participation of the same stakeholders at the NNLEMS's meetings. These engagements are limited to the provision of individual advice and recommendations; non-members may not participate in the group decision making processes.

When technical or policy recommendations are needed from the NNLEMS, the NNLEMS will provide consensus reports to DOE. Final approval and decisions on implementation of the recommendations will be made by the respective EM or LM office.

The NNLEMS will provide an annual summary of its activities to the EM and LM management. During the course of conducting these activities, NNLEMS leaders are also encouraged to meet with EM and LM Liaisons and leadership on a regular basis to review progress and strategies.

Approvals for NNLEMS Charter:

 _____ William I. White, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management	<u>2/1/2021</u> Date
Carmelo Melendez Digitally signed by Carmelo Melendez Date: 2021.01.12 14:37:12 -05'00' _____ Carmelo Melendez, Director, Office of Legacy Management	<u> </u> Date
Vahid Majidi Digitally signed by Vahid Majidi Date: 2021.01.12 15:02:04 -05'00' _____ Vahid Majidi, Director, Savannah River National Laboratory	<u> </u> Date
 _____ Thomas Mason, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory	<u> </u> Date