



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT

## EM Update | Vol. 3, Issue 14 | October 2011

### EM Official Says Proposed Budget Cuts Would Slow Nuclear Waste Cleanup

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – A top EM budget official warned that proposed federal budget cuts would halt work already under way, prolong critical projects involving soil and groundwater contamination removal, and lead to increased life-cycle costs to taxpayer for DOE's massive nuclear waste cleanup mission. "The shame is that we are more than 20 years old as a program and we have well characterized what needs to be done, and we have contracts and contractors out there working on specific scope," said EM Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget Terry Tyborowski. "The program has had good momentum. To be brought up short is unfortunate."



**Terry Tyborowski**

U.S. House and Senate proposed spending bills contain approximately \$5.6 billion for EM's fiscal year 2012 budget — about \$500 million less than the \$6.1 billion DOE sought for EM. DOE is appealing for increased funding.

Tyborowski noted that EM is not alone. Agencies across the federal government face reductions. She also pointed out that the proposed allocations would impact all EM sites across the DOE complex.

"It is significant for the program because the proposed allocations would proportionally cut all of our sites. It is a problem across the complex. It's not like one or two sites were hit. Everyone was," Tyborowski said.

Tyborowski, a former EM budget analyst, said the proposed



**Matthew Moury**

### EM's New Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program Lays Out Goals in EM Update Interview

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Matthew Moury was appointed the EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program Oct. 9. Moury has 30 years of experience in the nuclear field, including almost 20 years at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). While at the Board he has led a wide variety of safety-related areas, such as Integrated Safety

cuts are severe especially when compared to previous years when congressional appropriators proposed allocations above the amounts in DOE funding requests.

"This is a new day for us," she said.

If the House and Senate versions of the fiscal year 2012 bill are approved as proposed, EM would have to stop some cleanup activities. "We have people out moving dirt, deconstructing facilities. We would have to slow down many ongoing activities."

For example, the House and Senate markups call for a proposed \$20 million cut to funding for decontamination and demolition efforts at a former gaseous diffusion plant at Oak Ridge in Tennessee.

"Picture, if you will, these giant cranes knocking down these Manhattan Project-era buildings," Tyborowski said. "The proposed cuts would increase the time it takes to accomplish that work."

Tyborowski also pointed to a proposed \$43 million cut to funding for the cleanup of hazardous tank waste at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

"We have been able to successfully take liquid waste out of the tanks and vitrify it. This proposed cut is going to impact their ability to clean the tanks. That's significant. That means it would take longer to complete our work down there," she said. House and Senate markups also call for \$740 million in funds for the Waste Treatment Plant project at the Hanford site in Washington state, which is \$100 million less than the amount DOE requested for that project. The DOE had also asked for \$358 million for cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory, but the markups would provide \$185 million for that work. Steep reductions to EM's budget would increase life-cycle costs, Tyborowski said. Reducing those costs is a major priority for EM, requiring a reduction in the number of nuclear and radiological facilities and remediating the contaminated soil and groundwater underneath these facilities.

"This type of cut is going to impact our overall life-cycle cost. We will see changes in the life-cycle cost total," Tyborowski said.

In the 1990s, Tyborowski worked as a project manager for EM to develop the first and second life-cycle cost estimates for the cleanup mission.

If the proposed cuts are approved in the fiscal year 2012 budget, Tyborowski said EM headquarters will work closely with the sites to review planning and budget processes to optimize resources and best address risks.

"We would need to reprioritize what needs to be done in this constrained fiscal climate," she said.

House and Senate appropriators are scheduled to complete work on the federal spending bills for fiscal year 2012 before a continuing resolution that funds the government expires Nov. 18.

Management (ISM), facility design and construction, DOE directives, facility startup activities, and quality assurance. He recently talked with EM Update about a variety of topics, from his primary goals in his new position to the steps EM is taking to improve individual awareness of the importance of safety.

***EM Acting Assistant Secretary David Huizenga has called safety EM's first priority, and said your appointment will help ensure that EM continues to conduct its mission in a safe, secure and quality manner. What are your primary goals as you assume this new role?***

My first goal is to continue to strengthen our safety culture and ensure everyone feels free to raise any safety, security or quality concerns without the least bit of fear of retribution and with the confidence to know that EM will take the concerns seriously. All of EM, from Assistant Secretary Huizenga down, is working hard to reinforce this point and to provide a myriad of methods for anyone to report a concern. Safety, quality and security issues should never go unheard and unresolved in EM.

My second goal, which is a major element in strengthening our safety culture, is to continue to improve the application of ISM to all EM work. It would be fantastic to see our employees internalize ISM to the point that they are applying the ISM core functions not just at work, but also in their personal lives.

## EM Celebrates 10,000th Transuranic Waste Shipment to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



EM Acting Assistant Secretary David Huizenga addresses elected officials, employees and community members during an Oct. 22 event at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant recognizing the 10,000th transuranic waste shipment that recently arrived at the disposal facility in southeast New Mexico.



EM Acting Assistant Secretary David Huizenga, second from left, discusses the contact-handled transuranic waste-handling process at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Oct. 21. The discussion about an empty TRUPACT-II shipping package included, left to right, Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Interim Manager Ed Ziemianski, Huizenga, CBFO Chief Scientist and Director of Science & International Programs Roger Nelson, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology & Regulatory Support Frank Marcinowski and URS Washington TRU Solutions President and General Manager Farok Sharif.

## EM Analytical Services Program Reports

Safety is not something you don't like a set of coveralls when you get to work; it needs to be a part of how you live your life. Any time you are doing work you should ensure you understand exactly what you are going to do, what hazards could you be exposed to, what controls you have in place to protect against those hazards and then ensure that when you do the work you do it with the controls in place. If employees are unsure of any of these steps, they should make a conservative decision to stop work until they fully understand them. It is the same process whether you are repackaging a transuranic waste drum or changing the tire on your car.

Finally, I plan to work to ensure that when we discuss and resolve issues — whether they deal with safety, quality or security — we resolve them in a manner that is technically correct, and that the basis for our resolution is transparent.

***What is the most important message you wish to convey to program officials involved in activities critical to achieving EM leadership's cleanup vision for each site across the complex?***

My most important message is that safety is integral to everything we do. It is not the icing on the cake; it is part of the mix. If you are not using the ISM core functions and guiding principles in all of your work planning and execution, then your operations are not as efficient or effective as they should be.

***While EM's safety record can be considered good in comparison to private***

## Success in First Year of Comeback

**CARLSBAD, N.M.** – When a powerful earthquake and tsunami struck Japan in March, Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M., was involved in DOE efforts to respond to the disasters.

As a partner in the National Analytical Management Program (NAMP), Sandia provided radioanalytical services in support of analysis efforts in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami. Sandia also provided a list of DOE laboratories and their capabilities for quick identification of a lab capable of providing radiological analysis.



**EM directed the Carlsbad Field Office to reestablish NAMP last summer.**

Sandia's involvement in the disaster response efforts highlights NAMP's success since EM directed the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) to reestablish the program last summer. EM previously sponsored NAMP to coordinate analytical services and capabilities throughout DOE, but the program was curtailed many years ago.

Today, NAMP offers a centralized hub for analytical resources within the DOE complex. The program assists in the standardization of methods and provides a mechanism to coordinate receipt and analysis of samples from outside agencies. NAMP also establishes reimbursement mechanisms for services.

"We're pleased that CBFO can lead the DOE NAMP initiative," said CBFO Interim Manager Ed Ziemianski. "The program streamlines an important process for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the DOE laboratories. Its cohesive network approach indicates that even more benefits will be gained with the potential for increased application." NAMP Manager and CBFO Senior Strategist Oba Vincent said he looks forward to NAMP building on its success from the first year, especially with DOE's radiological capabilities. "There is a national shortage of radiological laboratories," Vincent said. "With the federal agencies, there isn't the capability to deal with radiological emergencies without DOE labs being brought in. The program will be able supply that need."

**industry, program officials have said there is still room for improvement in terms of orientation and actions.**

**What steps is EM taking to improve individual awareness of the importance of safety?**

EM is always striving to improve its safety record. EM has several efforts under way, including:

- "Town hall" style meetings across the DOE complex where DOE senior managers meet with employees to emphasize the importance of maintaining strong safety cultures and solicit employee input;
- Supporting the ombudsman function at the DOE Headquarters Office of EM as advocates for employees, and the general e-mail inbox for employees to raise questions or concerns directly or anonymously, as well as providing a hotline number; and
- Requiring EM Headquarters and field sites to assess safety culture implementation in their annual ISM declarations.

**What safety-related areas have you identified for improvement?**

My office is involved in several initiatives to improve safety and the efficiency of our operations. For example, we are:

- Developing an integrated assessment plan to maximize the use of our limited resources and reduce redundant reviews;
- Continuing our efforts to strengthen quality assurance in design and construction activities;
- Performing focused reviews to ensure our contractors'

Reestablishing NAMP also led to the creation of a DOE coordination office at CBFO for the EPA Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN), which provides analytical needs during large-scale responses to emergency situations. That step allowed for a central point of contact for EPA and DOE laboratories that work together. NAMP will coordinate complex-wide voluntary ERLN membership. ERLN is a component of the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN), which offers a nationwide, integrated system of laboratory networks to assist in response to acts of terrorism and other events. The consortium was established in 2005 through an agreement of 10 federal agencies, including DOE and EPA.

That agreement assigns joint responsibilities to EPA and DOE for radiological analysis. NAMP also allows EPA to access DOE capabilities in a national emergency. NAMP serves on multiple ICLN technical committees to ensure that the impacts of interagency standardization are understood and consistent with EM goals.

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## Hanford Site Employee Honored



U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, right, recently honored Richland Operations Office Fire Protection Safety System Oversight Engineer Dale West. West received DOE's 2010 Safety System Oversight Annual Award earlier this year. DOE has 60 safety system oversight staff members across the DOE complex. They are responsible for oversight of nuclear facility contractor engineering programs that ensure proper design, maintenance, testing, and configuration management of safety systems. They provide assurance to DOE that engineered safety systems perform properly and protect workers, the public, and the environment in the event of an accident at a hazardous facility.

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## EM Plays Role in Spent Fuel, Radioactive

assurance systems are effective;

- Taking steps to ensure EM is prepared to respond to beyond design basis events such as the one experienced at Fukushima, Japan; and
- Working with our sites to improve activity-level work planning and control.

***What efforts are under way or planned in safety-related areas such as training and instruction, or independent and self-assessment of safety issues?***

We have tasked our sites with performing self-assessments of their safety culture as part of the annual ISMS/QA declarations. We are also participating in the development of the Implementation Plan in response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's [Recommendation 2011-1](#) on Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.

***Do you have any specific plans for your first few months in the job? For example, do you plan to travel to various sites across the EM complex?***

EM has a tremendous number of talented and dedicated employees and I'm hoping to meet as many of them as possible. I'm traveling to Hanford in November and I hope to visit many of the other EM sites over the next year.

***You have a strong background in the nuclear field, including almost 20 years at the DNFSB, and serving as group lead for nuclear weapon programs.***

***What special lessons learned, or areas of expertise, do you plan to***

## Waste Management Safety Report

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – A new report on spent fuel and radioactive waste management safety, put together under the auspices of EM for delivery to more than 60 nations and the European Union, is now available on the cleanup organization's [website](#).

*"The Fourth National Report for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management,"* prepared by DOE in cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of State, was sent to the International Atomic Energy Agency in September. It will be delivered to parties of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste Management, also known as the Joint Convention.

The report, which outlines activities and policies to improve spent fuel and radioactive waste management safety, describes U.S. commercial and government facilities, inventories and decommissioning projects. It covers topics such as high-level waste (HLW) disposition, commercial low-level waste (LLW) disposal, DOE waste treatment facilities, international collaboration, and regulation of residual contamination at military sites.

Coordinated through the Joint Convention Interagency Executive, the latest report reflects developments in the U.S. through June 2011 and contains information from publicly available sources including regulations and agency websites. This report updates earlier reports put together by U.S. agencies under the terms of the Joint Convention. Similar reports were also prepared by U.S. agencies for the Joint Convention in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

EM's Office of Technical and Regulatory Support led the technical implementation effort for the U.S. government, with support from other DOE offices and the NRC, EPA and State Department.

U.S. government officials played an important role in the development of the Joint Convention, which establishes a process for international peer review of spent fuel and radioactive waste safety with the goal of raising the worldwide safety culture. The State Department led a team of technical experts from EM, NRC and EPA to negotiate the terms of the Joint Convention; the U.S. ratified the Joint Convention in April 2003. The DOE lead for this effort was David Huizenga, who recently became EM's new Acting Assistant Secretary.

The Joint Convention provides an international forum and process for participating nations to discuss in confidential sessions actions taken and lessons learned at spent fuel and radioactive waste management facilities, including independent spent fuel storage facilities. Going forward, this process will include peer reviews of national reports by participating nations culminating in a forum to be held in May

### ***bring to bear in your new role?***

I completed more than 150 site visits and reviews in the nuclear complex during my time with the DNFSB and the two lessons I have learned is those activities that have embraced ISM are usually the most efficiently and safely run activities, and second, there is no such thing as routine work. All work has unique challenges and as soon as you treat a job as "routine," problems will occur and you will end up spending more time and money recovering from an upset or event than if the work had been planned and executed correctly the first time.

### ***What are your hobbies/interests when not overseeing EM activities?***

I have a lot to learn so there is not much free time right now. But I am a recovering golfer and an avid college sports fan.

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2012 in Vienna, Austria.

At this session, U.S. technical experts will have an opportunity to discuss the nation's safety activities and address questions from representatives of other nations. Although more directly related to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management remains on the radar screen as a result of the Fukushima nuclear reactor accident in Japan in March 2011.

In addition to the direct response in assisting Japan after the accident, U.S. officials also took steps to address the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants. NRC created an agency task force, made up of current senior managers and former NRC experts with relevant experience, to conduct both short- and long-term analysis of the lessons learned from the situation in Japan.

According to the report, "the results of their work will be incorporated into future safety management activities for nuclear facilities. In the context of the Joint Convention, the safety of spent fuel, spent fuel storage and decommissioning following the accident are of singular importance."

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