



*MES beamline dedication at
Lawrence Berkeley National
Laboratory*

Deputy Secretary McSlarrow takes oath of office

Artificial retina research receives DOE commitment

International conference to address 'dirty bombs'

U.S. Department of Energy



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Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy

Jeanne Lopatto
Director, Office of Public Affairs

Bonnie Winsett
Editor

Visual Media Group
Graphic Design

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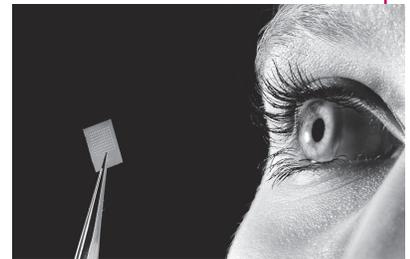


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On our cover

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham (second from left) uses remote control "scissors" to cut an electronic ribbon to dedicate the Molecular Environmental Science (MES) beamline, a component of the Advanced Light Source at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The arrow on the computer monitor points to the flash on the screen, which designates the successful cutting of the ribbon. Joining Secretary Abraham (left to right) are Daniel Chemla, Director, Advanced Light Source Division, LBNL; David Shuh, MES beamline manager; and Charles Shank, Director, LBNL.

Secretary Abraham visited the Department's three major California laboratories—LBNL, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Stanford Linear Accelerator Center—Nov. 25-26, 2002. While at LLNL, he presented the Secretary's Gold Award to Dr. Edward Teller.

For more on the laboratory visits and award presentation, see page 3.

Secretary visits Department's California labs

Last month, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham visited the Department of Energy's three major laboratories in California—Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

Secretary Abraham began his visit on Nov. 25, 2002, with a stop at the Doheny Eye Institute at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he made an announcement about the future of the Department's "Artificial Retina Project" (see article, page 6). Later that day, he visited Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Menlo Park. While there, he addressed laboratory employees and toured SLAC and the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory.

The morning of Nov. 26, Secretary Abraham was at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). During his visit, he spoke to employees

about the importance of the laboratory and their work to the Department's missions, viewed ongoing research, and cut an electronic ribbon to dedicate the Molecular Environmental Science beamline, the newest beamline at LBNL's Advanced Light Source. "This versatile, new beamline will be a valuable addition to this national user facility, already one of the 'bright lights' in the Department of Energy's fleet of synchrotron light facilities," Secretary Abraham said.

The Advanced Light Source is a synchrotron that accelerates electrons to energies of greater than 1.9 billion electron volts (GeV), focuses them into a tight beam, and sends this beam around the curved path of a storage ring for several hours. Beams of x-ray light can then be extracted and sent down beamlines to research instruments. The Molecular

Environmental Science (MES) beamline will, among other applications, provide researchers with the ability to study environmental contaminants at the molecular level. The MES beamline cost \$6 million to construct, with funding from the Department's Office of Science.

In the afternoon, Secretary Abraham visited Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) where he praised the laboratory's work in national security as "vital to the nation" during an all-hands address to employees. The Secretary received briefings on LLNL stockpile stewardship and nonproliferation programs and toured the National Ignition Facility. Secretary Abraham also presented the Department of Energy's highest honorary award—the Secretary's Gold Award—to Dr. Edward Teller, Director Emeritus of LLNL (see accompanying article, this page). ❖

Edward Teller receives Secretary's Gold Award

On Nov. 26, 2002, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham presented the Secretary's Gold Award—the Department of Energy's highest honorary award—to Dr. Edward Teller, Director Emeritus of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), in recognition of his outstanding contributions to science and the security of the nation. Secretary Abraham bestowed the honor during his visit to the laboratory.

"Dr. Teller is one of the giant figures of the 20th century, whose contributions to winning both World War II and the Cold War are immeasurable," Secretary Abraham said. "But I believe that Edward Teller should also be regarded as one of the most important figures of the 21st century. Dr. Teller did not just help make the world safe from tyranny and aggression, he helped usher in the era of supercomputing that drives so much of our current science. His unwavering support for scientific education has inspired countless young men and women to pursue lives in the sciences."

The Secretary's Gold Award consists of a plaque and citation, a medallion, and a rosette. Dr. Teller's citation reads, "In recognition of your outstanding contributions to science and the security of our nation. Your visionary role in the development of thermonuclear explosives, the establishment of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the secure second strike deterrence and missile defense, as well as advising many U.S. Presidents, is especially appreciated. Your broad and far-reaching vision, brilliant technical insights, and strong leadership have inspired generations of scientists, students, policy makers, and leaders."

Dr. Teller was a physicist at Los Alamos Laboratory during World War II and later became its Assistant Director. His efforts led to his co-founding of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1952. He served as Director of LLNL from 1958



Secretary Abraham presents the Gold Award to Dr. Teller.

to 1960, taught physics at the University of California, and founded and chaired the University of California at Davis Department of Applied Science, which is located adjacent to Livermore Lab. In 1975, Dr. Teller was named Director Emeritus of Livermore Lab and also was appointed Senior Research Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, a position that he still holds. ❖

U.S., Russia, IAEA to host 'dirty bomb' conference in March 2003

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohamed El Baradei met at Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 13, 2002, to discuss joint cooperation between DOE and IAEA on continuing nuclear nonproliferation efforts and other initiatives. At a joint press conference following the meetings, Secretary Abraham and Director General El Baradei announced that the United States, Russia, and IAEA will sponsor a three-day international conference on radiological dispersal devices (RDD), or "dirty bombs," in March 2003 in Vienna, Austria.

Secretary Abraham proposed the conference in his Sept. 16, 2002, address at IAEA's 46th General Conference (*DOE This Month*, October 2002). The International Conference on Promoting the Security of Radiological Materials will be open to all member countries of the IAEA.



Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham (left) and International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohamed El Baradei announce the upcoming international conference on "dirty bombs."

Details on the conference will be made available in the coming weeks. Topics of discussion will cover:

- recovering and securing high-risk, poorly controlled radioactive sources;
- strengthening long-term regulatory control of radiological materials;
- interdicting illicit trafficking/border controls; and

- RDD scenarios, possible consequences, mitigation strategies, and emergency response. Radiological Dispersal Devices, or dirty bombs, are much simpler to make and use than nuclear weapons. Materials for use in dirty bombs exist in many usable forms, from medical isotopes to other radiography sources. The comparative ease to which these types of materials are available and can be put to use in a dirty bomb presents a special challenge to international nonproliferation efforts.

"Safeguarding weapons usable material should be the highest priority for the IAEA and

its member countries," Secretary Abraham said. "However, the organization also needs to seek ways to formally expand its scope to deal with the dangers posed by lower grade nuclear materials. Working with Director General El Baradei and our counterparts in Russia, this conference is a first step to expanding these efforts." ♦

Kyle McSlarrow sworn in as Deputy Secretary

On Nov. 27, 2002, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham administered the oath of office to Kyle McSlarrow as Deputy Secretary of Energy. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on Nov. 14.

Most recently, Deputy Secretary McSlarrow was Chief of Staff to Secretary Abraham and the Department of Energy (DOE). As Deputy Secretary, he serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Department and exercises policy and programmatic oversight over its diverse missions.

"From day one, Kyle McSlarrow has taken the lead role in managing key Departmental programs. Kyle's



Secretary Abraham swears in Kyle McSlarrow as his wife Alison looks on and holds the Bible.

new role will allow the Department to tap into his extraordinary management and policy skills, focusing them on the array of energy, science, envi-

ronmental, and homeland security issues facing the Department," Secretary Abraham said.

Deputy Secretary McSlarrow has held key positions on Capitol Hill, including Chief of Staff to the late Senator Paul Coverdell from January 1997 to November 1998 and Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel to the Senate Majority Leader between 1995 and 1997. Prior to that, he was an associate with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Hunton and

Williams, where he practiced environmental and energy litigation. McSlarrow is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Virginia Law School. ♦

Department offices recognized for Hispanic science education programs

On Oct. 2, 2002, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Offices of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED); Environmental Management (EM); and Human Resources Management (ME-50) in the Office of Management, Budget, and Evaluation were recognized for their support of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute (HSFI). The recognition ceremony took place during a Hispanic Education Public Strategy Session at the Hay Adams Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Following the strategy session and ceremony, DOE representatives Theresa Alvillar-Speake, Director, ED; Annie Whatley, ED; and Jeffrey Vargas, ME-50, joined President George W. Bush at the White House where he honored the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Alumni Hall of Fame inductees.

During a previous White House briefing, the President stated, "...It is



(L-r) Annie Whatley, ED; and Theresa Alvillar-Speake, Director, ED; with President Bush at the White House.

important for our nation's future that this fund be whole and active and fully funded..." The Department responded to the President by raising its level of support through expanded programs.

In late September 2002, ED awarded a three-year grant in the

amount of \$680,000 to the HSFI to establish an academic achievement program for talented Hispanic college students. The goal of this program is to increase the number of students who are prepared to complete studies in energy-related disciplines to ensure an adequate supply of manpower in these areas in the future.

The new grant complements the \$1.9 million decade-long Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) program supported by EM. The office provided scholarships and cooperative work assignments to undergraduate students pursuing studies leading to environmental

careers. The HSFI assumed responsibility for the HSF Environmental Management Scholarship Program in January 2001. Since 1990, DOE's total investment to the HSF/HSFI exceeds \$2.7 million and supports more than 1,000 college students throughout the Nation. ❖

Employees reach public service award finals

Two Department of Energy (DOE) employees were finalists for the Service to America Medals, a national awards program that recognizes the accomplishments of career Federal employees. **Arnold Guevara**, Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA), DOE Headquarters, and **Richard Meehan**, Oak Ridge Operations Office, were two of five nominees in the category of National Security and International Affairs.

The Atlantic Media Group, which publishes *Government Executive*, *National Journal*, and *Atlantic Monthly*, and the Partnership for Public Service created the awards program this year to pay tribute to the dedicated employees in the Federal workforce and to demonstrate the importance of strong civil service. The award winners, selected from the finalists in

each category, were announced Nov. 13, 2002, in a gala event in Washington, D.C. Alfred League, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, Department of Defense, was the winner in the National Security and International Affairs category.

Guevara was named a finalist for his leadership role within OA's Cyber-Security Team. His accomplishments include developing a robust cyber-security independent oversight function for the Department's national weapons laboratories, creating two state-of-the-art cyber-security laboratories staffed with national experts who conduct continuous performance testing of DOE site networks from across the Internet, and taking a leadership role in evaluating the effectiveness of cyber-security measures associated with the United States' critical energy infrastructure.

Meehan, in the Facilities and Materials Reuse Division, Office of Assets Utilization, Oak Ridge Operations Office, was named a finalist for his role as team leader in the collaboration with the Department of Justice for the creation of the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program. The initiative is designed to secure and transfer more than 2,500 sets of excess DOE radiological detection equipment to the emergency responder community. Meehan worked with partner Kerry Thomas, Department of Justice, in consultation with Dr. Michael Gresalfi, of the Department's Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

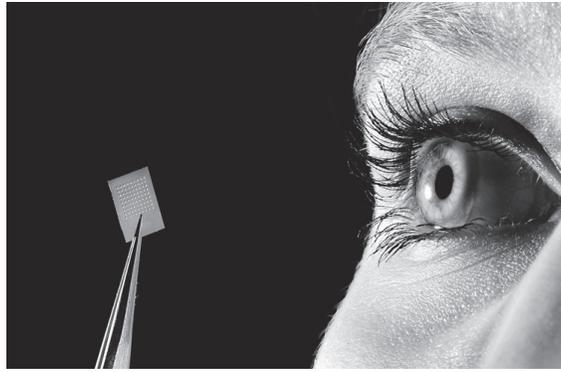
Additional information on the Service to America Medals program is available at <http://www.govexec.com/pps/index.cfm>. ❖

Artificial retina project gives hope for the blind

As a result of recent breakthroughs in science and engineering technology, the Department of Energy (DOE) will commit \$9 million over three years to augment artificial retina research, including support for a laboratory within the Doheny Eye Institute on the University of Southern California (USC) campus. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced the funding during a visit to the Institute's ophthalmology laboratories on Nov. 25, 2002. DOE's Office of Science is funding the project as part of its medical applications technology program.

DOE's Argonne, Oak Ridge, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Sandia National Laboratories, partnering with USC and North Carolina State University, are designing a microelectronic device that would be implanted in the eye on the surface of the retina. A microelectrode array would perform the function of normal photoreceptive cells.

"Restoring vision to patients with retinal disorders is the truly marvelous goal of this team of researchers," Secretary Abraham said. "That the unique resources of government laboratories are helping to meet this



A prototype of the microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) electrode array developed by Sandia National Laboratories for the artificial retina project.

goal is another demonstration of their benefit to the Nation."

The artificial retina could help those blinded by age-related macular degeneration or retinitis pigmentosa where neural wiring from the eye to brain is intact, but the eyes lack photoreceptor activity. The device is a miniature disc that contains an electrode array that can be implanted in the back of the eye to replace a damaged retina. Visual signals are captured by a small video camera in the eyeglasses of the blind person and processed through a microcomputer worn on a belt. The signals are transmitted to the electrode array in the eye. The array stimulates

optical nerves, which then carry a signal to the brain.

The prototype implants contain 16 electrodes, allowing patients to detect the presence or absence of light. The artificial retina project's "next generation" device would have 1,000 electrodes and hopes to allow the user to see images.

Each partner in the collaboration has a vital role in the project. Oak Ridge National Laboratory will manage the project, provide dynamic and static testing of electrode arrays, and develop special ocular sensors.

Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories are developing advanced electrodes. Los Alamos National Laboratory will provide advanced optical imaging techniques. Working with Second Sight LLC, Argonne National Laboratory is contributing advanced packaging systems and soak testing. Second Sight created the prototype device currently in testing. North Carolina State University is leading the work on powering and communicating with the array. The USC/Doheny Eye Institute is providing medical direction of the project and clinical work related to implanting the devices and clinical follow-up. ❖



U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham (left) and Algerian Minister of Energy and Mines Chakib Khelil sign a communiqué on Nov. 7, 2002, following discussions on the potential for enhanced liquified natural gas (LNG) trade between the two nations. The signing ceremony took place during the U.S.-Algerian Ministerial LNG Summit at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., which was co-chaired by Secretary Abraham and Minister Khelil. The Secretary's remarks at the Summit are available at <http://www.energy.gov/HQDocs/speeches/2002/novss/USAlgeriaMinisterialLNGSummit.html>. ❖

Y-12 achieves significant 'footprint reduction'

The Infrastructure Reduction (IR) organization at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn., has exceeded a contractual pledge to reduce Y-12's manufacturing "footprint" by 500,000 square feet by Oct. 1, 2002. The facility is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

The IR team began working immediately after BWXT Y-12 assumed responsibility for managing and operating the Y-12 facility in November 2000. It was determined that Y-12 could operate more efficiently and that cost effectiveness could be improved. The team sought to make the change through consolidation, cleanup and reuse of functional buildings, along with demolition of facilities no longer required to perform the current mission.

Five facilities were demolished and numerous areas cleared in the team's first year of operation; 25 buildings were demolished in the second year. More than 35 trailers were removed, clearing additional space at the complex. Renovation and consolidation also were used to help reduce the footprint. The renovation of the Alpha 3 Complex allowed more than 300 employees to occupy a previously dormant facility. By the deadline, the IR organization had reduced the manufacturing footprint by 578,248 square feet, an area roughly equivalent to 11 football fields.

"There's no way that we could have accomplished this milestone for the site, in this amount of time, without working together as a team," Cathy Hickey, Director of Y-12's IR activities, said. "I truly believe that this accomplishment is something everyone at Y-12 can be proud of." ❖

INEEL reports progress in cleanup projects

The Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) has made progress on a number of environmental projects, with some of them ahead of schedule. Most notable was completion of the 3,100 Cubic Meter Project on Oct. 24, 2002, to ship transuranic waste to the Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. The project was finished nearly 10 weeks before the Dec. 31, 2002, deadline (*DOE This Month*, November 2002).

A high priority for INEEL is removal of liquid radioactive waste stored in underground tanks that sit above the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Six of 11 tanks have been emptied down to residue in the tank bottoms. One tank was cleaned using re-

motely operated equipment, reducing radiation levels inside the tank by 99 percent. Under the INEEL Accelerated Cleanup Plan, the 11 tanks will be closed by 2012, four years ahead of the regular schedule.

Transfer of spent nuclear fuel from underwater storage at two locations is complete, and the spent fuel is now in dry storage. All INEEL spent fuel is scheduled to be in dry storage by 2012 and ready to leave the state by 2035.

INEEL continues to address mixed legacy waste. In the past two years, more than 1,150 cubic meters of legacy waste has been disposed of out of Idaho. Under the Accelerated Cleanup Plan, all legacy waste will be treated and disposed of outside Idaho by the end of 2004. ❖

First DWPF melter ends successful operation

The heart of the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, is its 65-ton melter. The melter is being replaced after an extensive operating run of more than three times its design life.

When it was installed during testing in 1994, the melter was estimated to have a design life of about two years. Now, after more than eight years of continuous operation, including six years of radioactive operations, the original melter is being shut down. A new melter will be installed to continue vitrification of the site's high-level waste inventory.

The decision was made in mid-October to end the melter's operation since several recent equipment issues are affecting the facility throughout. An associated heater stopped working and the Slurry Mix Evaporator is in need of replacement. The heaters help keep the pool of super-heated waste in the melter hot. The evaporator is a 10,000-gallon, stainless steel vessel that is used in the DWPF process to mix ground frit, a borosilicate glass, with high-level waste.

The second melter is ready to be put into place. It is estimated that it will take four to six months to remove the old melter, install the new one, test it, and return to normal operations. All operations have to be conducted remotely to protect workers from radiation.

Melters cost about \$20 million each. By safely extending the original melter's useful life, Savannah River Site has saved millions in taxpayer dollars and stayed on course to empty waste tanks. Since radioactive operations began in March 1996 at DWPF, 1,337 canisters, or about 27 percent of the projected 5,000 canisters, have been poured. ❖

SRS employees raise over \$2.2 million for United Way



Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina raised a grand total of \$2,211,791—110 percent of the 2002 goal—for area United Way agencies during the Site's annual campaign in October. The employees were from Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC), Bechtel Savannah River Inc., BNFL Savannah River Corporation, and BWXT Savannah River Company.

"Countless employees, either individually or through teamwork, contributed to the success of this campaign," WSRC President Bob Pedde said. "I am very proud that our employees continue to recognize and respond to the needs of our communities."

To further support local community needs, approximately 500 SRS employees picked up a hammer, pushed a lawnmower, made lunches, and provided many other services to support United Way's Projects CARE, VISION, and SERVE. At left, Jeff Frommer zeroes in on making the playground at Children's Place, Aiken, S.C., safe and more fun. ❖

Fossil Energy presents ESS&H Achievement Awards



On Nov. 12, 2002, the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy (FE) presented its Environment, Security, Safety and Health (ESS&H) Achievement Awards for 2002. The award was established in 1995 to honor, encourage, and publicize individuals or teams who have significantly improved efficiency, reduced costs, or improved quality in these areas. Since its inception, nominated projects have represented a cost savings to FE of over \$40 million.

Cynthia Mullens, Jeff Buterbaugh, and Rodger Dotson, National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), received individual achievement plaques, and Jan Wachter, the site plaque, from Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Mike Smith and NETL Director Rita Bajura. The employees were recognized for their efforts to develop detailed procedures to improve bomb searches and manage bomb threats at NETL. In the photo, (l-r), Dotson, Mullens, Wachter, and Buterbaugh hold their plaques at the awards ceremony at DOE Headquarters.

Noteworthy nominations also were submitted by other FE sites—Strategic Petroleum Reserve, Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves, and Albany Research Center. ❖

Department salutes veterans — our heroes every day



Department of Energy (DOE) facilities nationwide remembered America's veterans in observance of Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2002. The Department's official ceremony on Nov. 13 at Headquarters in Washington, D.C., was led by then Deputy Secretary-Designate Kyle E. McSlarrow and featured Vietnam War veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor winner Alfred V. Rascon (left), Director of the Selective Service System, as the keynote speaker. The program was sponsored by the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity.

"I look around this room and see Americans of all colors, ethnicities, and backgrounds," Deputy Secretary-Designate McSlarrow said. "We are a nation constituted of varied and diverse elements, which is a great source of our nation's strength."

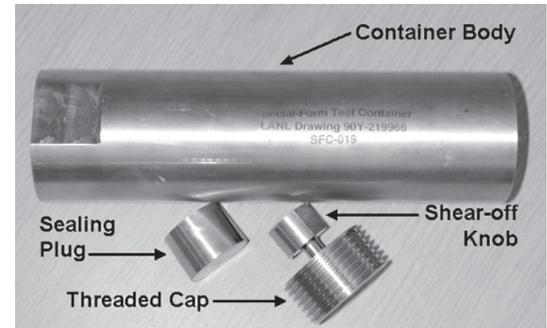
During the program, a Recognition Award for Mobilized DOE Employees was presented to two current DOE employees—Robert K. Briede and Kelvin R. Jamison of the Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation. Both were called to active duty in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001. ❖

Capsule simplifies nuclear material storage, transport

A Special Form Capsule (SFC) certified to meet the requirements specified by the U.S Department of Transportation for Type A, 7A packages, has been developed by the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The SFC, developed for the Offsite Source Recovery (OSR) Project, expands radioactive material shipping capabilities and facilitates re-encapsulation in the field by providing a special-form overpack for leaking or nonconforming radioactive sealed sources.

The SFC, at right, consists of a precision-milled stainless steel capsule, sealing plug, and threaded cap. Installing the threaded cap forces the tapered plug into the capsule body, providing the seal. Once the threaded cap is closed to specifications, the closure knob shears off and the SFC cannot be reopened.

SFC Model I features a one-inch inside diameter internal cavity and is available in four payload lengths up to 4.5 inches. SFC Model II provides inner payload dimensions of 2.06 inches diameter by 8.5 inches long. Performance or procurement details are available from Cristy Abeyta, OSR Project, LANL, 505-667-4711 or cabeyta@lanl.gov. ❖



The Berkeley Lamp goes to the Golden Gate

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a National Park Service (NPS) site encompassing 75,500 acres in the San Francisco Bay area, has installed 50 energy-efficient Berkeley Lamps in its offices at Fort Mason, with the assistance of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Energy Technologies Division of the Department's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The Berkeley Lamp, developed by LBNL lighting researchers, has been shown to reduce lighting energy use in offices up to 50 percent.

"It's wonderful to see an energy-efficient technology developed at one of the national laboratories put to use by Federal agencies. It demonstrates that you can get anything done when you have good partners—people who are motivated to make something happen," said Kathy Pierce, Director of DOE's Seattle Regional Office.

Celebrating the latest step in the "greening" of the national parks are (l-r) Steve Butterworth, NPS; Marcy Beck, LBNL; Kathy Pierce, DOE; and Mai-Liis Bartling and George Turnbull, NPS. ❖



Physical protection upgrades completed at Czech facility

United States and Czech officials on Oct. 4, 2002, commemorated completion of physical protection improvements at the Nuclear Research Institute, Rez. The improvements include a new storage vault for highly enriched uranium, a central alarm system, and additional protection for spent nuclear fuel. Department of Energy (DOE) support for the improvements was leveraged approximately fourfold by contributions from the Czech Republic.

Steven K. Black, Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator for International Security and Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, presented Dr. Frantisek Pazdera, Director of the Nuclear Research Institute, a silver plaque commending the U.S. Czech collaboration. A member of the U.S. Embassy, Prague also attended the ceremony.

In the photo, Black (left) shakes hands with the operator of the new Central Alarm Station at the Nuclear Research Institute, Rez. ❖



Career senior executives earn highest honor

On Nov. 13, 2002, the Office of Personnel Management announced the winners of the 2002 Presidential Rank Awards. The award, the highest honor for career Senior Executive Service (SES) members, recognizes a sustained, exemplary level of performance excellence over a period of at least three years.

There are two award categories—Distinguished Executive and Meritorious Executive. Those achieving the Distinguished rank receive a monetary award of 35 percent of base pay; the Meritorious rank recipient receives a monetary award of 20 percent of base pay. A total of 55 Distinguished Executive Awards and 293 Meritorious Executive Awards were conferred Governmentwide.

The Department of Energy has 13 Meritorious Executive Award winners:

- **Rita A. Bajura**, Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory;
- **Thomas A. Beckett**, Deputy Director, Naval Reactors, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA);
- **Terry L. Brendlinger**, Director, Environmental Audits Division, Office of Inspector General/Oak Ridge;
- **Kathleen A. Carlson**, Manager, Nevada Operations Office, NNSA;
- **Marshall O. Combs**, Deputy Director, Office of Security;
- **Edward G. Cumesty**, Deputy Manager, Oak Ridge Operations Office;
- **William S. Goodrum**, Assistant Manager, Office of Weapons Programs Management, Albuquerque Operations Office, NNSA;
- **Michael S. Hacskeylo**, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration;
- **Michael A. Kilpatrick**, Deputy Director, Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance;
- **Anthony R. Lane**, Associate Administrator for Management and Administration, NNSA;
- **C.S. Tyler Przybylek**, General Counsel, NNSA;
- **Scott R. Sitzer**, Director, Coal and Electric Power Division, Energy Information Administration; and
- **Edwin L. Wilmot**, Deputy Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application and Stockpile Op, NNSA. ♦

Carbon sequestration research to expand

The Department of Energy (DOE) will move into a new, expanded phase of its program to develop “carbon sequestration,” a promising area of research in which carbon emissions are captured and permanently stored, rather than being released into the atmosphere. Speaking to the National Coal Council on Nov. 21, 2002, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said that the Federal Government intends to create a nationwide network of four to 10 “regional sequestration partnerships,” and called on industry, state and local agencies, universities, and others to join with DOE in forming the partnerships.

“These regionally focused efforts will become the centerpiece of our sequestration program,” Secretary Abraham said. “They will help us determine the technologies, regulations, and infrastructure that are best suited for specific regions of the country.”

DOE will issue a call for proposals soon. The Government will offer up to \$2 million per partnership for initial planning efforts. Later, as much as \$7 million per partnership could be provided for actual field verification tests and more detailed

regulatory and infrastructure planning. The first partnerships are expected to be announced next spring.

The Department has given the go-ahead to a research team headed by American Electric Power (AEP) and Battelle to begin studying potential sequestration sites in the Ohio River Valley. The project will focus on one type of sequestration—the injection of carbon gases into brine-filled formations thousands of feet underground.

Theoretically, these deep saline formations, which underlie all or part of 35 states, could hold all of the carbon dioxide emitted from the nation’s coal-burning power plants. The brackish water in these rock formations is far too salty for human consumption, and they exist well below drinking water aquifers.

Researchers will study whether the deep saline formations beneath the Ohio-West Virginia border are suitable for permanently entrapping large quantities of carbon dioxide. AEP has volunteered its Mountaineer Plant in New Haven, W. Va., as the test site for investigating the concept.

During the next 18 months, researchers will conduct seismic surveys of the underground rock

formations and drill a 10,000-foot exploratory well on the power plant property. No decision will be made on proceeding beyond the current study phase until the subsurface geology is deemed safe and suitable for carbon sequestration and cost estimates have been prepared.

DOE, through its National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), is providing \$3.2 million of the project’s total \$4.2 million cost. Other partners providing financial and in-kind support include AEP, BP, Battelle, and Schlumberger. The Ohio Coal Development Office, part of Ohio’s Department of Development, also is supporting the project. NETL, DOE’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, West Virginia and Ohio State Universities, the Ohio Division of Geological Survey, and others will provide technical support to the project.

More information on each of these sequestration efforts is available at <http://www.fossil.energy.gov>. Secretary Abraham’s speech to the National Coal Council is available at <http://www.energy.gov/HQDocs/speeches/2002/novss/NationalCoalCouncil.html>. ♦

KC Plant achieves VPP Star for third time

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Kansas City Plant, a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facility, has achieved Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status for the third time. For more than a year, the VPP Steering Committee delivered safety training and communications to more than 3,100 associates at the Kansas City Plant and then successfully completed a rigorous audit by DOE officials to earn VPP Star Status.

"Associate involvement is a huge part of successful certification," steering committee member Scott White said. "We had tremendous cooperation from both union and management. Everyone came together and created a safer operation through this process."

Ambassador Linton Brooks, Acting NNSA Administrator, visited the Plant on Oct. 22, 2002, and delivered the flag and plaque that recognized the achievement. "This is a big deal for a lot of reasons," Ambassador Brooks said. "Not only have you earned the VPP certification, but more so because this is the third time. I have found that when people work together from top to bottom to accomplish something, they can accomplish anything."



From the right, Anson Franklin, NNSA Director of Congressional, Intergovernmental, and Public Affairs, and Ambassador Brooks take a firsthand look at Kansas City Plant's advanced manufacturing technologies.

"Having him present the VPP flag and VPP plaque to the steering committee as well as associates of the Kansas City Plant strengthened the message that this program is important to the NNSA," Beth Sellers, Director, Office of Kansas City Site Operations, said.

Ambassador Brooks' visit to the Plant included a presentation to associates and a firsthand look at the manufacturing capabilities inside the facility. Technologies on display included trailers, telemetry, microelectronics/LiGA, mechanical assembly, and limited life components. ❖

NEW ON THE Internet

ePME Project website

The ePME Project Office in the Office of Science has launched the Department of Energy's e-Government Corporate Research and Development (R&D) Portfolio Management, Tracking and Reporting Environment website, <http://epme.doe.gov>. The ePME project is an important element of the Department's e-Government strategy in response to the President's Management Agenda.

The goals of the project are to simplify and unify the Department's R&D project tracking, management, and reporting

processes and to support the R&D management processes electronically in a seamless, distributed information environment. Once implemented, ePME will enable end-to-end tracking of research projects, information sharing across programs, and snapshots of the Department's R&D through cutting edge Web technology.

The website includes the background and vision of ePME, project activities and accomplishments, program contacts, and a project newsletter. Questions or comments on the project may be directed to Carolyn.Murphy@science.doe.gov. ❖

LLNL to house world-leading supercomputers

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) has been awarded a \$290 million, multiyear contract to build the two fastest supercomputers in the world. Named "Purple" and "BlueGene/L," IBM plans to deliver both systems in Fiscal Year 2005 to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

The supercomputers will support the Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC) program for the science-based Stockpile Stewardship Program, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department's National Nuclear Security Administration. "ASCI Purple and BlueGene/L promise to deliver cost-effective, tremendous capability to the program's critical mission," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said.

ASCI Purple will have a peak performance of 100 trillion calculations per second, equivalent to 25,000 high-end personal computers. Purple will be the primary supercomputer for the ASCI program and a production resource to stockpile stewardship. BlueGene/L, using low-cost, low-power processors and a radically different architecture, will have a peak performance of 360 trillion calculations per second. As a computational sciences research and evaluation computer, BlueGene/L will significantly enhance ASCI simulations in specific areas and determine this novel architecture's applicability to future production stewardship computing.

Both Purple and BlueGene/L will be a shared resource for all three national defense laboratories: LLNL, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories. ❖

New conductor could provide answers for energy demand

Researchers from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and 3M Company are developing a promising replacement conductor for conventional power lines that addresses the problem of power outages caused by sagging lines due to the heat of high current loads. The design uses 3M Nextel 650 ceramic fibers, embedded in an aluminum matrix, to make a composite wire that does not stretch as much when heated. An enhancement in the new cables is the addition of zirconium, which makes the aluminum more resistant to deformation at higher temperatures.

ORNL researchers will test 3M's small, medium, and large diameter conductor cables in a field experiment at ORNL. The tests will evaluate the overall performance of the conductors to verify predictions of computer models by looking at sag and tension data and by testing various conductor accessories that attach the conductor to the towers.

The 3M conductor and line accessories are being tested for thermocycling, or high current situations, at ORNL. In Fargo, N.D., the conductor and its accessories are being tested for resistance in high winds and ice on a transmission line owned by DOE's Western Area Power Administration. Corrosion tests are being performed by Hawaii Electric Company.

The field test in North Dakota is being done on Western's Jamestown-Fargo No. 1 230-kV transmission line. The test will show how well the new cable can mechanically withstand the extreme winter and summer conditions on the Great Plains of North Dakota.

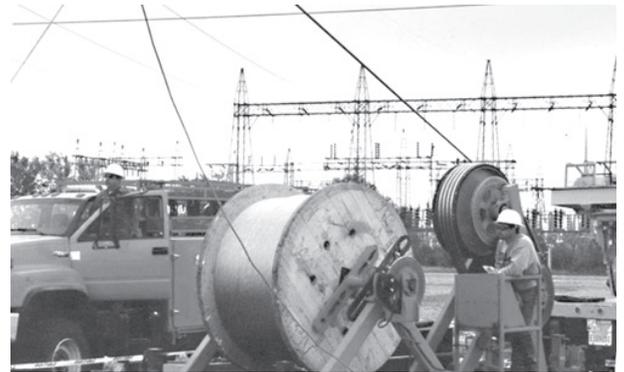
"We picked this segment because the developers wanted a one-mile straight stretch of line. It's just west of our Fargo Substation so it's also easy for the crew there to keep an eye on the monitoring equipment," said Brian Morris, Western's

North Dakota State Maintenance Manager.

Three Western foremen, seven linemen, three manlifts, and several other pieces of equipment from Western's Fargo, Jamestown, and Bismarck, N.D., sites, worked together to install the conductor.

Western arranged to document the field test installation in a video that can be shown to other transmission line owners interested in using the new conductor.

ORNL is monitoring the performance of the conductor at the Fargo site as well as other future utility sites. In addition, the National Electric Energy Testing, Research and Applications Center in Atlanta, Ga., is testing all of the components in its laboratories.



Bismarck Line Foreman Joe Albrecht (left) and Fargo Lineman Casey Blotske monitor the progress of stringing the new conductor cable for the field test. Western Area Power Administration's Fargo Substation is in the background.

The project is funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Transmission Reliability in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE-16) through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with 3M. ❖

NEW Publications

Office of Inspector General (IG) reports: **Remote Access to Unclassified Information Systems** (DOE/IG-0568); **Depleted Uranium Operations at the Y-12 National Security Complex** (DOE/IG-0570); **Idaho Settlement Agreement Activities** (DOE/IG-0571); **Business Management Information System** (DOE/IG-0572); **Remote Treatment Facility** (DOE/IG-0573). The reports are available from the U.S. Department of Energy, IG Reports Request Line, 202-586-2744, or at <http://www.ig.doe.gov/>.

From the Energy Information Administration (EIA): **Advance Summary: U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas Liquids Reserve, 2001 Annual Report** (DOE/EIA-0216/2001/

Advance Summary) states that in 2001 proved reserves increased and reserves additions exceeded production by 21 percent for oil and 31 percent for natural gas. The publication is available at http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/fwd/adsum2001.html. EIA has changed how it estimates and presents data on fuels used to produce electricity beginning with the release of **Annual Energy Review 2001** (DOE/EIA-0384/2001). The report is available at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/contents.html>. Additional information on these and other EIA reports is available from the National Energy Information Center, EI-30, Room 1E-238 Forrestal Building, USDOE, Washington, DC 20585; phone 202-586-8800. ❖

Education NOTES

The Department of Energy's **Sandia National Laboratories/California**, based in Livermore, is partnering with the University of New Haven in Connecticut to offer a graduate program where students can earn a Masters of Science degree in National Security and Public Safety. The collaboration will permit greater attention upon issues directly related to the nation's focus on homeland security. Sandia/California is the "host facility" and several members of Sandia's technical staff will be among the faculty members teaching specialized courses in the program. The program will be open to U.S. citizens holding a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Weekend and evening classes are scheduled to begin in January 2003. Additional information is available at <http://www.unhca.com>.

West Texas A&M University is developing an undergraduate mechanical engineering program with the help of a newly formed engineering advisory board. Dan Glenn, Director, **Amarillo Site Operations**, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Dennis Ruddy, President and General Manager, **BWXT Pantex**, are two of more than 20 community leaders serving on the board. The members of the board represent area organizations that employ engineers or have an interest in engineering in the Texas Panhandle. "In order to fulfill our mission, it is crucial to have well qualified engineers," Glenn said. "By developing an engineering program at WT, we will be able to tailor the program to our needs as employers." West Texas A&M officials hope to begin offering the degree as soon as fall 2003.

More than 120 middle school, high school, and community college science teachers recently attended a two-day science and technology symposium at the Department of Energy's **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** (LLNL). The symposium was offered through a collaborative partnership among LLNL, the Edward Teller Education Center, and the University of California at Davis. The goal was to provide science educators an opportunity to explore ongoing research and state-of-the-art laboratories in physics, chemistry, biology, environmental science, and nuclear chemistry. "The symposium provides teachers with access to real and current science. It helps them keep their classrooms up to date and interesting for their students," said Richard Farnsworth of LLNL's Science and Technology Education Program. ❖

DOE completes 2002 Recruit America campaign

In early November, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Human Resources Management in the Office of Management, Budget, and Evaluation (ME) completed the 2002 DOE Recruit America campaign. The campaign focused on providing DOE supervisors and managers with recruitment opportunities that would help organizations attract individuals into entry-level positions.

As part of the Recruit America campaign, partnerships were developed with three Hispanic Serving Institutions—the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez; University of Texas, Pan American; and Florida International University. At each school, Department officials worked with academic leaders to establish student interest in DOE job opportunities. Officials spoke with more than 2,000 students. At the conclusion of the campaign, 432 résumés



Students take advantage of available information at a DOE Recruit America event.

were received from students specifically interested in securing a position at the Department.

An additional focus of the campaign was to build Hispanic student interest in science and technology. ME; the Offices of the Chief

Information Officer, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Environmental Management, and Science; Albuquerque and Chicago Operations Offices; Bonneville Power Administration; and Sandia National Laboratories worked together to design and produce activities to highlight technologies of the future. These activities included science awareness workshops for students, demonstrations of DOE-developed technologies, a solar car rally, and a stay in school science rally that drew 15,000 students from more than 300 high schools from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of résumés received during the Recruit America campaign, contact Jeffrey Vargas, Office of Corporate Human Resource Initiatives, 202-586-3039. ❖

People IN ENERGY

Michael H. Derbidge has been named Chief Operations Officer at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory.

Most recently, Derbidge directed Argonne's Reactor Program Services Division. In his new position, he will supervise several divisions—including Electronics and Computing Technologies, Human Resources, Safeguards and Security, Information and Publishing, Public Affairs, and Plant Facilities and Services—and will oversee the Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer.



J. W. (Bill) Rogers, Jr. is the new Director of the William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, a scientific user facility at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Most recently, Rogers was Associate Laboratory Director for PNNL's Fundamental Science Directorate.

Julia Phillips, Director of the Physical and Chemical Sciences Center at the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories, has received the first Horizon Award from the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau. The award is presented to a New Mexico resident who has contributed significantly to the acceptance and advancement of women in science, engineering, math, or technology. New Mexico served as the pilot for the award's inaugural year.



The Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has named five technical staff members as Laboratory Fellows:

Lev Boulaevskii, Harry Crissman, Peter Gary, Rusty Gray, and Bette Korber. The honor recognizes recipients for sustaining a high level of excellence in programs important to the

LANL mission, making important scientific discoveries that lead to widespread use, and becoming recognized leaders in their scientific fields within and outside LANL.

Dr. Susan Wood, who retired at the end of October 2002 as Director of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Savannah River Technology Center (SRTC), is the recipient of the 2002 Distinguished Scientist award presented by the Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) to recognize outstanding technical achievement at DOE's Savannah River Site. Wood was noted for her leadership and guidance in bringing the best possible solutions to Savannah River's technology needs and to best prepare the site for new missions.



Tyler Przybylek, General Counsel for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), has been named the organization's acting chief operating officer. Przybylek will coordinate the work of NNSA headquarters and field components and oversee day-to-day continuity of operations. He will continue to serve as NNSA General Counsel.

Helen Edwards of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) has been awarded the 2003 Robert R. Wilson Prize by the American Physical Society. Edwards was recognized for her leadership in the design, construction, commissioning and operation of the Tevatron and for her continued contributions to the development of high gradient superconducting linear accelerators as well as bright and intense electron sources. In her distinguished career, Edwards also has received the MacArthur Fellowship, the National Medal of Technology, and DOE's E. O. Lawrence Award.

Glenn Mara has been named Deputy Director for Operations at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory (LLNL), a position he has held in an acting capacity since July 2002. Mara's 31-year career at LLNL spans a broad range of technical and management assignments, including Deputy Project Manager for the National Ignition Facility and Associate Director for Engineering.

Alfred P. Sattelberger, Leader of the Chemistry Division at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Sattelberger was cited for his "distinguished contributions to early transition metal and actinide chemistry and for building an outstanding inorganic chemistry program at LANL."



The American Physical Society has awarded the George E. Pake Prize to **C. Paul Robinson**, Director of the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories, for his outstanding leadership and research accomplishments. The Society cited Robinson for his leadership as Director of Sandia and as head of the U.S. delegation to the US/USSR arms control talks in Geneva from 1988-1990 and for his pioneering contributions to the development of high explosives lasers, e-beam initiated chemical lasers, and molecular laser isotope separation methods.

Karen Evans, Chief Information Officer of the Department of Energy, has been named Vice Chairman of the Federal Chief Information Officers Council. The Council is the principal interagency forum for improving practices in the design and modernization of the Federal Government's information resources. Before joining DOE, Evans was Director, Information Resources Management Division, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. She is a 20-year veteran of Federal Government service, rising from a GS-2 employee to become a member of the Senior Executive Service. ♦

Milestones

YEARS OF SERVICE

December 2002

Headquarters

Chief Information Officer - Judy E. Saylor (35 years). **EIA** - Deborah Johnson (30), Stephen K. Patterson (30), Wanda G. Robinson (30). **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy** - John W. Fairbanks (40), C. Harvey Major (35), Wilma R. Cain (30), Maryanne F. Daniel (30), Ellen G. McCraney (30). **Envir. Management** - Edward E. Hallein (35), Patrice M. Bubar (25), John De Gregory, Jr. (25).

FERC - Bessine B. Squirewell (40), Doretha L. Ellis (30), Dora C. Harley (30), Lillian M. Hilton (30), Joseph B. O'Malley, Jr. (30), Sandra J. Russell (30), James A. Brown (25), David W. Cagnon (25), Lorance W. Yates (25). **Independent Oversight & Performance Assurance** - Sharon S. Davis (30).

Management, Budget & Evaluation - Teresa R. Baldwin-Vaky (30), Robert L. McMullan (30), Lucia K. Chestnut (25), Michael C. Moser (25), Marilyn V. Samuel (25), Susan L. Shatzer (25). **NNSA** - Richard W. Arkin (30), Michael D. Davister (30), Jose L. Munoz (30), Wanda J. Smith (25). **Nuclear Energy** - Norton Haberman (35). **Policy & International Affairs** - George W. Zeigler (30). **Radioactive Waste** - Sharon L. Skuchko (35).

Field

Albany Research Center - Terry R. Stoelting (25). **Albuquerque/NNSA** - Donald A. Richer (40), Linda K. Davis (25). **Bonneville Power** - Donald D. Adams (35), Wilford E. Faler (35), Robert E. Fleischmann (35), Paul D. Johnson (35), Barbara A. Ballew (30), David M. Byrnes (30), Michael H. Hazelton (30), Albert F. Orono, Jr. (30), Miles R. Smith (30), Deborah B. Brown (25), Mark W. Hermeston (25), Thomas A. Philo (25), Diane M. Relaford (25).

Chicago - Kevin M. Miller (30), Sherri Cowins-Jackson (25), John K. O'Keefe (25). **Idaho** - Richard F. Kershisnik (30), David L. Wessman (25). **NETL** - James D. Devault (30). **Nevada** - Stephen A.

Mellington (25). **Nevada/NNSA** - Philip M. Monette (30), May G. Pinion (25). **Oakland/NNSA** - Jacqueline White (25).

Richland - George H. Sanders (25). **Rocky Flats** - Clifford M. Franklin (35). **Savannah River** - William H. Barnette (35), Frederick A. Roemer (30), Renee R. Alvis (25), Mary M. Baranek (25). **Schenectady Naval Reactors/NNSA** - Karen A. Parillo (25). **Southeastern Power** - Donnie A. Cordell (35).

Strategic Petroleum Reserve - Pamela A. Callahan (30), Diane A. Mayer (25). **Western Area Power** - Robert J. Harris (30), Nicholas J. Stas (30), Donald R. Hawker (25), Eric L. Hill (25), La Mar J. Marquardt (25). **Y-12 Site/NNSA** - William G. Watson (30).

RETIREMENTS

October 2002

Headquarters

Chief Information Officer - William K. Devany (28 years), John E. Staley (37), Michael A. Tiemann (30).

Economic Impact & Diversity - Melverlynn S. Hull (30). **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy** - David A. Bassett (23), Kathy A. Higgs (24), Esher R. Kweller (29), Frank C. McCann (25), John M. Talbott (30). **Envir., Safety & Health** - Virginia M. Johnson (35). **Management, Budget & Evaluation** - John A. Severn (32). **Science** - Jerry J. Smith (28).

Field

Bonneville Power - William L. King (33), Gary J. Walstrom (31), Montgomery U. Ward (33). **Chicago** - Barbara J. Thompson (20). **Idaho** - Clayton R. Nichols (29). **NETL** - David P. Berkey (33). **Oak Ridge** - Joseph R. Enright (27).

November 2002

Field

Bonneville Power - Donald L. Holte (31), Billy M. Langston (15), Leo D. Mock (35). **Western Area Power** - Robert D. Dobson (31), Clarence G. Hanson (31), Clarence L. Walston (15). ❖

COMING Events

March 2003

18-20 3rd Annual Project and Asset Management Conference, Rosslyn, Va. Sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) and hosted by the Office of Engineering and Construction Management within DOE's Office of Management, Budget, and Evaluation. Attendees will learn about facilities and infrastructure and project management improvement initiatives in DOE, with a focus on the Department's progress in integrating budget and performance, and receive practical advice on implementing requirements.

Awards will be presented to individuals and project teams whose achievements exemplify the best application of project management principles to carry out DOE's mission. Additional information is available from the conference hotline, 703-289-3811; Pamela Winn, 202-586-5217, Pamela.winn@hq.doe.gov; or http://oecm.energy.gov/conference/conf_index.html.

25-26 DOE Software Quality Forum 2003, Arlington, Va.; a triennial conference sponsored by the Software Quality Assurance Subcommittee of the Quality Managers within the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear weapons complex. The event is cohosted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of Advanced Simulation and Computing, Office of Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration. The 2003 forum offers attendees an opportunity to gain knowledge and share experiences in software trends and technologies with industry, government, and academia leaders. For more information, contact Brenda Coblentz, 301-903-4632 or brenda.coblentz@hq.doe.gov, or visit <http://sqf.energy.gov>. ❖

INEEL helping develop new National Park vehicles

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) is working with the automotive industry to develop a low-floor, 18-to-32-passenger vehicle that uses alternative fuel and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. An early prototype of the vehicle was on display in Yellowstone National Park at the Greater Yellowstone/Teton Clean Cities Coalition annual meeting in September 2002.

Partners in the project include DOE, INEEL, the National Park Service, the Federal Transit Authority, ASG Renaissance, Ruby Mountain, Greater Yellowstone Clean Cities Coalition, Arboc Ltd., and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officers. Protecting the environment and reducing the nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy are goals of the collaboration.

The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed early next year. The partners will develop a low-floor shuttle bus prototype with a natural gas power train. Eventually, the vehicle may be manufactured using several drive trains for fuel flexibility. The passenger area is built low to the ground so steps are not required for entry and an entry ramp can be extended to accommodate wheelchairs.

December 2002

AROUND DOE

Worker protection sparks international interest

Since 1986, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) in the Office of Environment, Safety and Health has given workers confidence in the radiation protection programs at DOE sites by providing formal accreditation for both dosimetry (external exposure) and bioassay (internal exposure) measurements. Now, growing international recognition is making DOELAP the standard upon which other worker protection programs are measured.

In 1996, the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety requested assistance in evaluating its in-house dosimetry program and developing a dosimetry accreditation program which is now maintained through DOELAP. This assistance since has expanded to other Korean state agencies. More recently, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization asked for DOELAP's expertise to evaluate its dosimetry program.

PNNL facilities management services are 'golden'

The International Facility Management Association (IFMA) has awarded its coveted Golden Circles Award to the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) as outstanding facility management organization of the year. The award recognizes an organization whose facility management practices contribute to creating and managing productive work environments and support the objectives of the company business plan. This is the first year PNNL submitted a nomination for the international recognition.

Peggy Williams, PNNL's Director of Facility and Operations, accepted the award at the recent IFMA World Workplace Conference in Toronto, Canada. During the conference, laboratory facilities employees and researchers demonstrated the PNNL-developed whole building diagnostics tool.

PNNL's facilities management accomplishments last year included: replacing traditional cleaning agents with biobased and "green" cleaners; changing lawn maintenance and landscaping practices, resulting in a reduction of 114 million gallons of water for irrigation; and partnering with research staff to develop, test, and apply software for automatic and continuous measurement and verification of building performance. ❖

**United States
Department of Energy (PA-40)
Washington, DC 20585**

Official Business