U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

Program Update

April–June 2011

Welcome to the April–June 2011 issue of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Program Update*. This publication is designed to provide a status of activities within LM. Please direct all comments and inquiries to lm@hq.doe.gov.*

Terminal pond dam C-2 on Woman Creek will be breached in the 2018–2020 timeframe. Beginning in fall 2011, the terminal ponds will be operated in a flow-through condition with additional monitoring until they are breached.

Inside this Update:

Goal 1

LM Completes Environmental Assessment and Issues Finding of No Significant Impact for Rocky Flats

On May 31, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) completed a comprehensive 18-month effort to evaluate the environmental impacts of removing the final surface water retention ponds by breaching the dams at the Rocky Flats Site near Denver, Colorado. The public release of the *Rocky Flats Surface Water Configuration Environmental Assessment* (EA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) marked the completion of a regulatory and public process under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Twelve dams were constructed on the Rocky Flats property during operation of the Rocky Flats Plant nuclear weapons production facility to retain surface water flows for testing prior to release off site. The site cleanup was completed in 2005 and the Corrective Action Decision/Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) followed in 2007. DOE and the site's regulators, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, agreed that surface water retention is not required at Rocky Flats and the dams are not a functional part of the final cleanup remedy.

The purpose of breaching the dams is to reduce or eliminate the retention of surface water to return the Rocky Flats surface water flow configuration to approximate original conditions. Returning flows will provide ecological benefits by improving riparian habitat and promoting wetlands. In addition, DOE would reduce

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Legacy Management Goals

Goal 1. Protect human health and the environment

Goal 2. Preserve, protect, and share records and information

Goal 3. Meet commitments to the contractor work force

Goal 4. Optimize the use of land and assets

Goal 5. Sustain management excellence

Goal 1

Office of Legacy Management's Newest Responsibility: Review and Audit of Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursement

Historical Need for the Title X Program*

From 1946 through 1970, The U.S. Army's Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) entered into several contracts with commercially operated mills to purchase uranium concentrate in support of U.S. defense programs. Due to the limited knowledge of the hazards created by the resulting milling-process waste, these contracts did not include provisions for managing and remediating these waste materials. Between 1975 and 1979, studies of the environmental impacts of uranium mill tailings were conducted, revealing potentially significant health hazards. As a result, in 1978, Congress enacted the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA).

Under UMTRCA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulates the mill tailings and other byproduct material remaining at active processing sites (i.e., sites with active licensees under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, hereafter referred to as the Atomic Energy Act, on or after January 1, 1978). The Atomic Energy Act provides the NRC and any Agreement State (pursuant to a discontinuance agreement with the NRC) with the authority to approve a plan for remediating an active site, as developed by the site licensee.

In 1979, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the General Accounting Office (GAO) reported to Congress that Federal assistance should be provided to the active site licensees to defray a portion of the costs to

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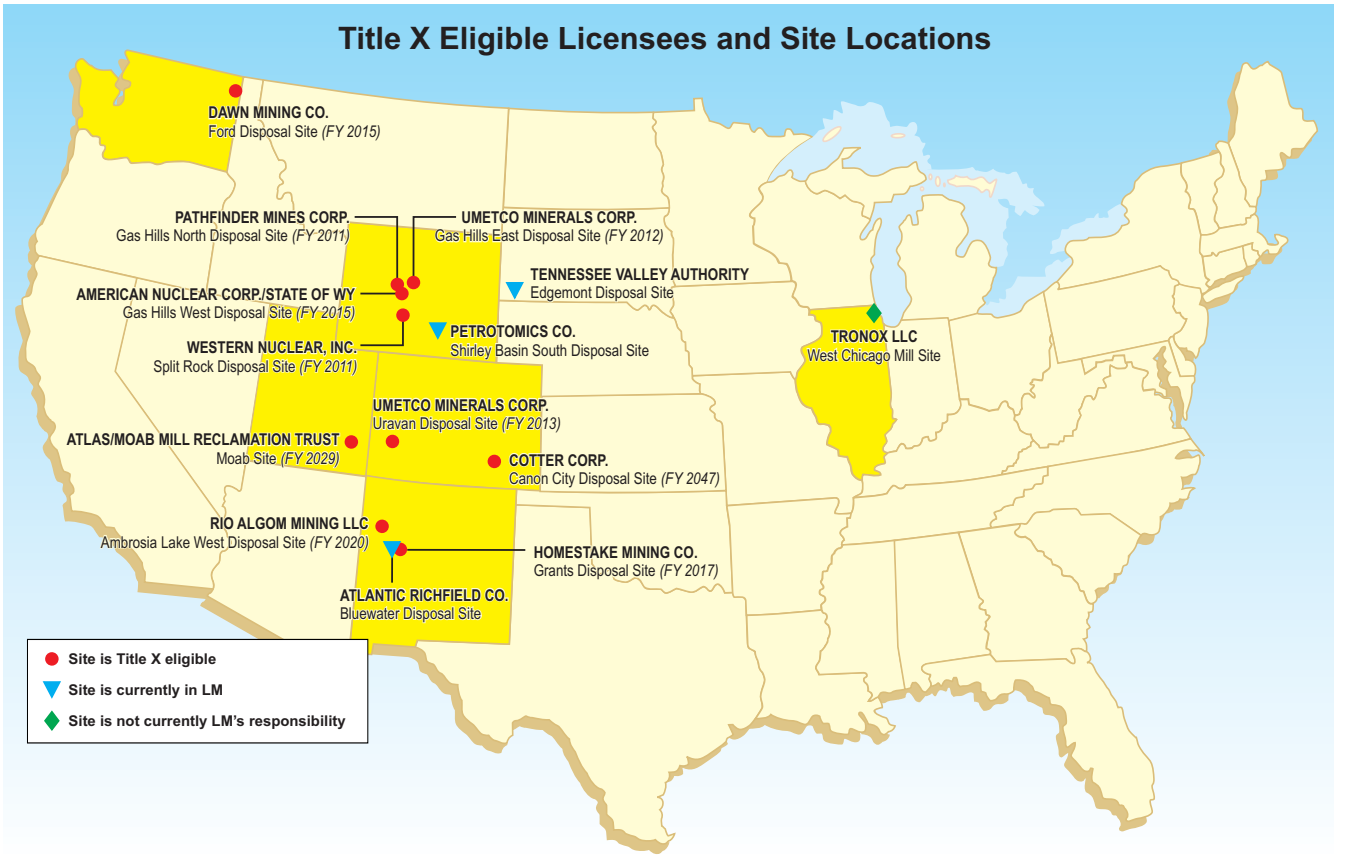

*Primarily excerpted from the *U.S. DOE Guidance for Preparation of Reimbursement Claims under Title X of the Energy Policy Act, Rev. 1, April 26, 1995.*

Goal 1

LM Executes Interagency Agreement with Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service for the Gasbuggy Site

In March 2011, a new Interagency Agreement (IA) was signed between Legacy Management (LM), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to facilitate LM activities at the Gasbuggy site on the Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico. Gasbuggy, along with the Rulison and Rio Blanco Sites in Colorado, were three of the Nevada Offsites now managed by LM where underground nuclear tests were conducted to try to simulate natural gas production.

The Gasbuggy site lies within the geologic area known as the San Juan Basin, a mineral-rich environment that has historically been and currently is a center of oil and gas development. Natural gas exploration and production activities are currently expanding in the vicinity of the Gasbuggy site. One of the concerns today is the practice of "hydraulic fracturing" as part of natural gas drilling, which could create fractures that connect with those created by the nuclear test. This could inadvertently cause contaminants associated with the test (primarily tritium) to migrate when a natural gas well is drilled in the vicinity of the Gasbuggy test.

The fundamental purpose of the IA is to enhance the ability of LM, along with the partnering agencies, to efficiently and effectively protect human health and the environment at the Gasbuggy site. This means confirming protectiveness of site institutional controls and ensuring stakeholder acknowledgement. To this end, the IA formalizes the notification protocols whereby LM is informed of new natural gas development activities occurring within a designated area surrounding the Gasbuggy site that is defined in the IA.

This IA replaces the original Gasbuggy Memorandum of Understanding, executed in 1967 between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Atomic Energy Commission for the conduct of Project Gasbuggy, which focused on aspects directly associated with implementation of the project.

Site Background

Project Gasbuggy was an underground nuclear detonation conducted on December 10, 1967, in an effort to stimulate natural gas production from the tight gas-bearing Pictured Cliffs Formation. The detonation took place 4,240 feet below ground surface and had an estimated yield of 29 kilotons. The experiment was moderately successful in improving natural gas production rates but the gas was radioactive and after time the production rates declined to more typical rates for the area. The site is located on lands administered by Carson National Forest. All oil, gas, and mineral rights are Federally owned and administered by the BLM. The nearest non-Federal landowner is the Jicarilla Apache Nation whose lands are adjacent along the eastern boundary of the section of land where the Gasbuggy test was conducted.

Outreach to Stakeholders

As part of managing the Gasbuggy site, LM scheduled meetings with affected stakeholders to develop positive working relationships and engage the parties on the future management of the site. The primary stakeholders for the Gasbuggy site are the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the commercial natural gas exploration and development companies, the BLM, and the USFS.

The focus of the IA resulted from joint meetings with the BLM and the USFS where it was realized that a formalized system of communication protocols was necessary to ensure that the agencies were aware of pending or planned activities in the Gasbuggy vicinity. The Jicarilla Apache Nation representatives were

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Goal 4

A Rare Duck, Indeed

During the first 2 weeks of May, birdwatchers from Maine to California flocked to the Fernald Preserve in Ohio to catch a glimpse of a rare Garganey duck, a migratory bird that typically breeds in Europe and Asia and winters in southern Africa. Sightings of the bird in North America are extremely rare. The Garganey's visit to the Fernald Preserve is only the second sighting recorded in Ohio, and the first one ever sighted outside of the Lake Erie area in Northern Ohio. Many birdwatchers are "listers," which means they keep a list of all the birds that they have seen in their lifetime. The Garganey has brought birdwatchers from 24 states and Canada to add the rare bird to their life list. Well-known bird authority Jon Dunn, the author of many National Geographic field guides on birds, has been to the Fernald Preserve twice to see the Garganey, and Greg Miller, the subject of the book and upcoming movie *The Big Year*, also travelled to see this rare bird.

The arrival of the Garganey has increased the total number of bird species seen at the Fernald Preserve to 212. This vast number of migratory and nesting birds validates the Office of Legacy Management's institutional controls for visitor access at the site. The strict policy of keeping visitors on established trails and overlooks has meant that birds like the Garganey can seek a safe haven and solitude in areas at the Fernald Preserve that are not accessible to visitors. This bird-friendly environment means that migratory birds are making the site a stopover, and nesting birds are making the site home. This large number of bird species seen at the site has solidified the reputation of the Fernald Preserve as a destination spot for birdwatchers near and far. ❖

The rare male Garganey duck spent 2 weeks at the Fernald Preserve. Although his advances were spurned by a female blue-winged teal, the numerous ponds at the site provided sanctuary for this wayward duck, which found the Visitors Center's biowetland surface pond extremely hospitable.

Goal 4

Student Explorers

The Fernald Preserve in Ohio continues to be a popular destination for area educators and their classes. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2011, 20 classes comprising 1,200 school children have visited the Fernald Preserve to learn about the natural environment and the Office of Legacy Management mission at Fernald. Curriculum at the Fernald Preserve includes a variety of nature hikes, sessions on the lives of area birds and mammals, wetland exploration, and prairie life. Teachers have expressed their delight in the educational opportunities at the Fernald Preserve, have thanked us for "getting the students to become explorers," and have come to realize that the site has much to offer. As one teacher said, "I feel the preserve is a fantastic educational opportunity for my students."

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The diverse habitat and ecosystems at the Fernald Preserve offer countless learning opportunities for students and teachers. Topics of discussions about decomposition at the Bone Yard can range from bone decay to what insects are crawling in and out of a decaying animal.

Goal 2

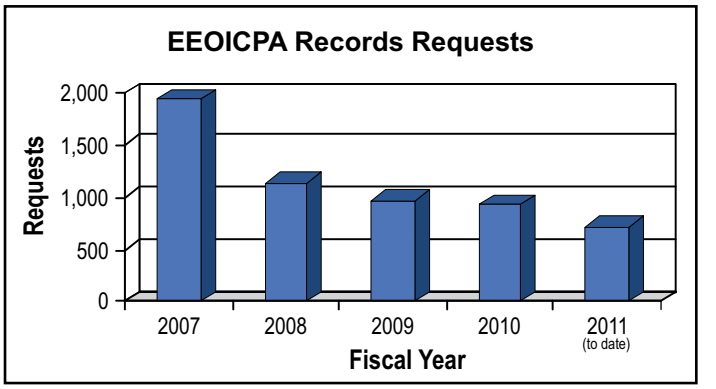
LM Records Supports Energy Employees Occupation Illness Compensation Program

The Office of Legacy Management (LM) has fulfilled more than 7,000 requests for records over the last 4 years. The majority of requests are for information supporting the Energy Employees Occupation Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). EEOICPA was enacted on October 30, 2000, to compensate workers with illnesses that may have resulted from performance of official duties for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Eligibility under EEOICPA is determined by type of illness and exposure to radiation, beryllium, or silica. EEOICPA compensation extends to covered workers and survivors of former workers.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has primary responsibility for EEOICPA administration, but works in partnership with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and DOE to support adjudication of worker claims. NIOSH performs radiological dose reconstruction for cancer claims and coordinates petitions to add classes of employees under a site Special Exposure Cohort. DOE plays an important role in providing records to both DOL and NIOSH to help in the claim process. DOE maintains and provides records related to workers and historical DOE facility operations.

Examples of types of records include employment and training information, internal and external dosimetry data, workplace monitoring information, workplace characterization data, facility data, process descriptions for work locations, health physics manuals and reports, worker medical files, and other documentation, such as environmental reports and progress reports.

LM provides EEOICPA information for the Ashtabula Site, Columbus Site, Fernald Feed Materials Center, and Mound Plant in Ohio; Grand Junction Operations Office and Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado; Pinellas Plant in Florida; High Energy Rate Forging Facility in California; the Inhalation Toxicology Laboratory in New Mexico; and uranium mills and ore buying stations in several western states. LM tracks all EEOICPA requests to ensure the 60-day response periods established by DOL and NIOSH are met. LM will continue to support this important program by maintaining and preserving records and responding to records requests. ❖



Statistics for LM EEOICPA requests as of June 10, 2011.

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LM Completes Environmental Assessments and Issues Finding of No Significant Impact for Rocky Flats

or eliminate the inspection and reporting costs associated with meeting dam safety requirements and the management and maintenance costs for upkeep of the dams.

The 2011 EA analyzed the potential impacts related to breaching the five remaining dams. Two of the dams will be breached in fall 2011. The three remaining terminal dams will be operated in a flow-through configuration beginning in 2011, and will be breached sometime between 2018 and 2020.

The EA process was started in late 2009 and the draft EA was released for public review and comment on April 30, 2010. During the EA process, and in response to public comments, LM decided that a follow-up monitoring program was appropriate to support the findings in the EA and address public concerns. An Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) was developed through a cooperative effort among DOE and the AMP group, which consisted of stakeholders representing neighboring communities, including local, state, and Federal agencies and elected officials.

Implementation of the AMP does not change the findings of the EA, but provides for additional site monitoring information in response to concerns expressed by stakeholders. The AMP requires ongoing communication with the interested parties. DOE intends to continue the cooperative process during the AMP's implementation. DOE will routinely post monitoring data, provide periodic reports, and hold briefings and discussions with the AMP group and other interested members of the public throughout the duration of the AMP. The communication approach that DOE is using serves to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act goal of ensuring transparency and openness by making relevant and useful environmental information available to decision makers and the public.

The terminal pond dams B-5 on south Walnut Creek, left, and A-4 on north Walnut Creek, center front, will be breached in the 2018 to 2020 timeframe. The A-3 dam, center back, and the Present Landfill pond, far right back, are scheduled to be breached in the fall of 2011. The armored channels upstream of the A and B ponds indicate locations where smaller dams were breached in the past.

The Present Landfill Pond dam is scheduled to be breached in the fall of 2011. The dam has been operated in flow-through condition for the past several years.

DOE and the AMP group will also review the AMP and the monitoring data and evaluation at least every 2 years to determine whether any revisions to the AMP are appropriate. As tasks are accomplished, or other needs are identified, the AMP will be updated through the cooperative process between DOE and the AMP group.

For more information on the EA, AMP, and other Rocky Flats-related topics, please visit the Community Involvement page of the LM Rocky Flats website at http://www.lm.doe.gov/Rocky_Flats/Sites.aspx?view=5.

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Office of Legacy Management's Newest Responsibility: Review and Audit of Title X Uranium/Thorium Reimbursement

remediate mill tailings remaining at the sites. Title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, hereafter referred to as Title X, authorizes DOE to reimburse licensees of 1 thorium and 13 uranium processing sites (as shown in figure on page 2) for a portion of their remedial action costs attributable to the sale of source material to the Federal government. DOE, in turn, published 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 765, to establish the requirements and procedures under which it would implement the Title X cost reimbursement program. The amount eligible for reimbursement is determined by multiplying the final approved claim amount by a Federal Reimbursement Ratio, which is a previously determined number for each site based on the quantity of tailings at a site that was generated as a result of source material sales to the Federal government.

DOE selected the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) to perform opinion audits of the Title X claims. The opinion audits assess the adequacy of the claims instead of reviewing for general compliance with proper accounting. DCAA and DOE signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the respective responsibilities of each agency. DOE and DCAA conduct the reviews concurrently and DOE has ultimate responsibility for the audits.

The Current DOE Title X Reimbursement Program and LM's New Role

DOE's primary function is to accept claims from the licensees annually, to conduct audits of those claims to determine the amount that is reimbursable to each licensee, and to accomplish the reimbursement.

The audit function was originally assigned to the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project Office in Albuquerque in 1993, and Albuquerque staff continued the audits through 2005. The audit function was then transferred to the Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) in Cincinnati.

In May 2011, the Title X claim review and audit function was transferred from the EMCBC to the LM office in Grand Junction, Colorado, via a Memorandum of Agreement signed by both the Office of Environmental Management and LM. The rationale for this transfer included the LM Grand Junction office's historic missions responsible for uranium acquisition, resource management, mill site and vicinity property remediation, and disposal site long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M). Further, since its inception in 2004, LM is responsible under authority of UMTRCA for the custody and LTS&M of uranium mill tailings disposal sites, including those in the Title X Program.

The transfer of programmatic responsibilities to LM also assured consistency and continuity of the Title X Program for its duration. The need to conduct the audit function is expected to continue through the remainder of this decade and perhaps beyond. ❖

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LM Executes Interagency Agreement with Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service for the Gasbuggy Site

asked to review and comment on the draft IA. Since BLM administers the gas well permits on the Jicarilla tribal property, BLM is able to notify DOE of any new activity on tribal lands. The Jicarilla were specifically asked if notification to DOE by BLM of new gas well activity on their lands was an acceptable approach for them and they responded positively.

Beyond the IA, LM has established working relationships with the Jicarilla Environmental Protection Office and the Jicarilla Oil and Gas Administration for coordinating sampling at locations on tribal lands and for distribution of sampling results reports. The area oil and gas operators, though not parties to the IA, have been apprised of the IA and understand DOE's role regarding the Gasbuggy site. To date interactions with the area oil and gas operators have been positive. Finally, one overarching observation has been that all stakeholders have stated that they have been reassured by LM's active approach to monitoring and managing the legacy at Gasbuggy. ❖

Goal 4

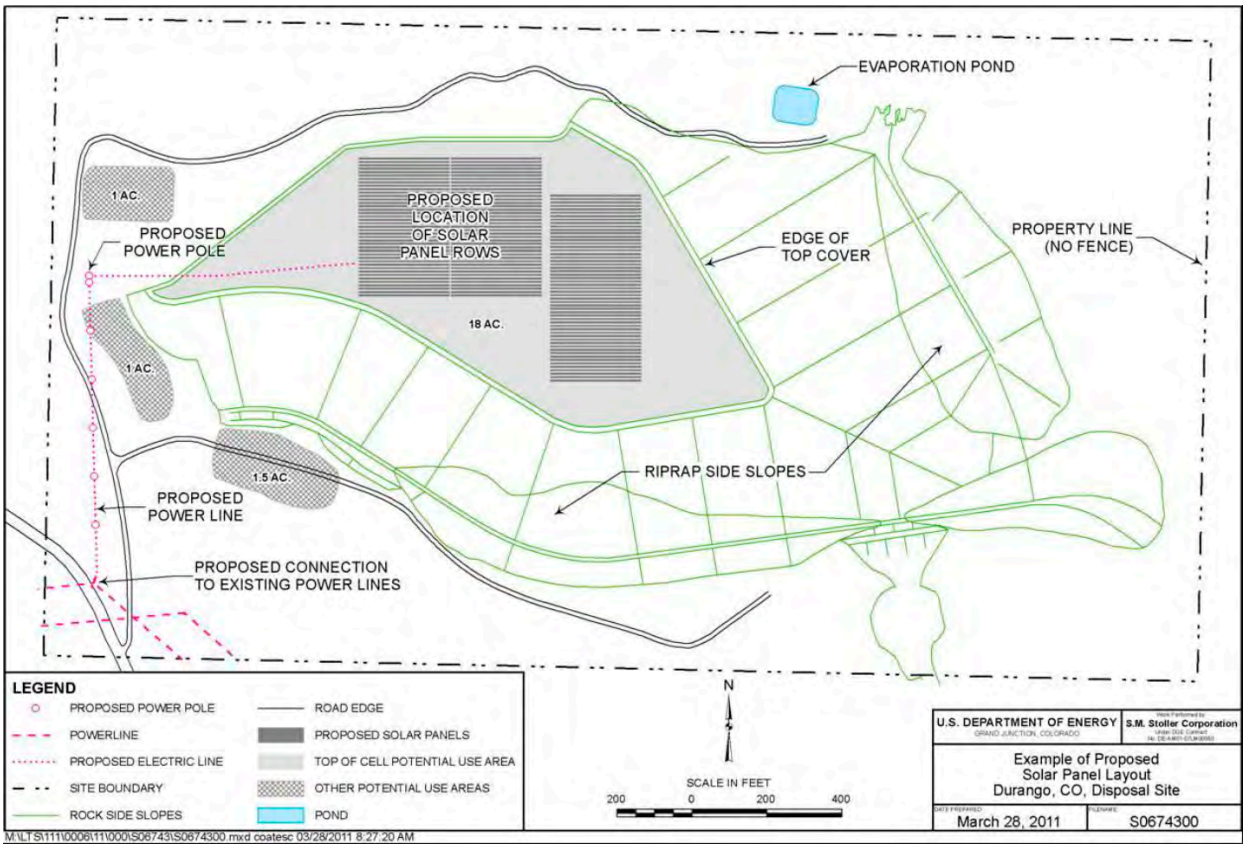
Photovoltaic Solar at Durango, Colorado, Disposal Site

The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) is committed to excellence in environmental stewardship and continues to develop and implement innovative ways to promote renewable energy at its many sites across the country. LM was approached by a local Durango, Colorado, citizen in 2009 about the possibility of installing a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy system at the Durango Disposal Site's uranium mill tailings disposal cell.

LM first met with the La Plata County Commissioners and then the La Plata Electric Association, the local utility, to seek input on the concept. After receiving a positive response from the community, LM prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate alternatives. The alternatives considered were placing solar panels on both the disposal cell cover and on previously disturbed areas on the site. The 21.5-acre area under consideration could potentially support a 4.5 megawatt PV system.

Because the disposal cell falls under the jurisdiction of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license for long-term care, DOE also had to obtain the NRC's acceptance of the Long-Term Surveillance Plan, which was revised to allow installation of a renewable energy system on the disposal cell.

On June 9, 2009, Thomas Pauling, Director, Office of Site Operations for LM, signed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). LM determined in the FONSI that the proposed action of using the surface of the cell and other previously disturbed areas would not impact the cell and would only have minor short-term impacts. LM will now pursue leasing the land to another party to construct and operate the PV system. The lease will be for a 20-year period with one 5-year option. ❖



Goal 1

State and Tribal Government Working Group Visits the Weldon Spring Site

On Wednesday, June 1, 2011, the Office of Legacy Management (LM) Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site hosted the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) for a half-day tour of the site to provide insight on the daily operations of an LM site. The event was part of the STGWG 2011 Spring Meeting, which was held in St. Louis, Missouri, May 31 through June 2, 2011.

STGWG representatives listen to a presentation about the history of the Weldon Spring Site.

Meeting attendees heard presentations on the history of the site, current groundwater conditions, and performance of the on-site engineered disposal facility. The site tour focused on LM and institutional controls. Attendees also had the option to participate in a walk to the top of the disposal cell, visit other portions of the site, and observe a demonstration of the sampling process for monitoring wells.

In addition, the Weldon Spring site tour included an overview of the LM mission and a panel discussion that was focused on lessons learned associated with obtaining Weldon Spring site institutional controls. The discussion panel included representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Transportation. ❖

STGWG representatives walk to the top of the Weldon Spring disposal cell.

Goal 1

The State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference in Washington, DC

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored The State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference April 27 through 29, 2011. The fifth annual conference, held in Washington, DC, was the largest conference to date with well over 400 attendees and over 50 speakers and expert panelists.

The conference opened Wednesday with a keynote speaker, Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Afterwards, Mr. Stanislaus joined the evening's roundtable discussion, Environmental Justice and Lessons Learned from the Gulf Coast Oil Spill, along with Ray Dempsey, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, BP international oil and gas company, and others representing community organizations and industry.

Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), kicked off the first full day of the conference

Dr. David Rivers, Lessie Price, Melinda Downing, and Representative Donna Christensen at The State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference.

by delivering the conference keynote speech, Thursday, April 28. Secretary Vilsack's address spoke directly to this year's theme of Building the Clean Energy Economy with Equity. Secretary Vilsack was introduced by DOE's own Associate Deputy Secretary, Melvin G. Williams, Jr. Directly following the opening was a plenary speech by Laura Turner Seydel. Seydel,

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Goal 1

Community Leaders Institute Held in Florence, South Carolina

A Community Leaders Institute (CLI), sponsored by the Medical University of South Carolina and the U.S Department of Energy, was held at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina May 19 through 21.

CLIs help community leaders address environmental and other issues in their communities. Progress requires informed and active leaders. The purpose of this CLI was to reinforce this principle and to emphasize the unique relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development.

Participants around tables at the Tougaloo College Community Leaders Institute in Tougaloo, Mississippi.

Goal 1

National Brownfields Conference Held April 3 Through 6, 2011, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Over 6,500 national and local policymakers, engineers, designers, and private sector developers attended the 2011 National Brownfields Conference. It was one of the most well attended conferences in the 14-year history of the National Brownfields Conference. Co-hosted by Leaders at the Core of Better Communities and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the conference included 130 educational sessions discussing the latest developments in dealing with contaminated properties, several mobile workshops highlighting unique Philadelphia Brownfields projects, the Economic Redevelopment Forum, and keynote addresses from Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator, and Tom Murphy, senior resident fellow at Urban Land Institute and former mayor of Pittsburgh.

An Elected Officials Forum was also held during the Conference. The Forum was chaired by EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Affairs, Sarah Hospodor-Pallone. The forum provided an overview of Federal resources available to support the efforts of mayors and other local officials to promote sustainable communities and implement programs that will address the myriad quality-of-life needs in their cities and towns. Representatives from Federal agencies—EPA, U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Department of Agriculture—briefed local officials (or those representing the officials) about opportunities for Federal and local partnerships, technical assistance, grants and other tools, and programs available to support communities.

Exhibit Hall at Brownfields Conference in April 2011.

Mayors and other local officials discussed the effectiveness of Federal programs in meeting their communities' needs. These officials discussed successful models in their communities, shared best practices, and identified challenges and barriers to meeting their goals of maintaining clean, healthy, and economically robust communities.

Along with other topics, the Forum discussion and dialogue addressed the special and unique needs of small and underserved communities and provided information on resources to support efforts in communities of all sizes and populations. Mayors felt the session provided needed conversation and appreciated the chance to dialogue with Federal agency representatives who could hear their concerns about how Federal and local partnerships can best serve their communities. ❖

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The State of Environmental Justice in America 2011 Conference in Washington, DC

daughter of philanthropist Ted Turner, is a leading national environmental advocate and eco-living expert.

Congresswoman Dr. Donna Christensen closed a series of panel sessions on two days this year by leading the Health Disparities Congressional Panel. Representative Christensen was joined by representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Health and Human Services, and a community health advocate. The session was also moderated by Dr. David Rivers of the Medical University of South Carolina.

This year's panel participants came from as far away as The Netherlands. There was a plethora of concurrent training sessions regarding all aspects of environmental justice, which rounded out Thursday's program and concluded Friday afternoon. The conference was co-sponsored this year by the USDA, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the EPA. ❖

Goal 5

Office of Legacy Management Welcomes New Employees

Kenneth (Ken) Starr joined the Office of Legacy Management (LM) on June 5, 2011, as a General Engineer and will be working with Environment Team 2 in the Westminster, Colorado, office. Ken has over 26 years of experience in the environmental and civil engineering arenas, primarily having worked as a consultant. Ken has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural/civil engineering and a master of science in environmental engineering and is a registered professional engineer in multiple states.

Ken has conducted numerous technical investigations and remedial actions relating to groundwater, surface water, soil, sediment, and soil gas/vapor intrusion issues at numerous U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites as well as private sector locations. This work included investigations and remediations of sites containing asbestos, chlorinated and nonchlorinated hydrocarbons, radionuclides, heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and explosives and munitions.

Ken also has provided litigation support to both the DOD and U.S. Department of Justice and has developed guidance documents regarding hazardous waste management and land-use controls for the DOD. Ken has also reviewed hundreds of documents for the DOD ranging from work plans to Records of Decision for technical accuracy, regulatory compliance, consistency with internal guidance, and potential liability to the Federal government.

Deborah (Deb) Steckley joined LM on June 5, 2011, as a General Engineer and will be working with Environment Team 1 in the Grand Junction, Colorado, Office. Deb relocated to Colorado from the Washington, DC, area where she worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Her employment with EPA included positions with the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response and the Office of Underground Storage Tanks. Deb's work focused on land cleanup and sustainable reuse, and she served as a program liaison to EPA Regions 6 (Dallas, Texas) and 8 (Denver, Colorado).

Deb received a bachelor's degree in environmental biology from the University of Colorado (CU). She also completed graduate studies in architecture and became a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional while at CU. Deb is originally from Lakewood, Colorado, which is located just west of Denver.

Apryl Sanchez-Stevens joined LM on May 23, 2011, as an Information Technology (IT) Specialist and will be working with the Archives and Information Management Team in the Morgantown, West Virginia, Legacy Management Business Center. Apryl is the byproduct of a French mother and San Carlos, Arizona, Apache father (also a Federal worker), having lived overseas most of her life and have either lived in or visited over 67 countries.

After a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force and attending university, Apryl began her career on Wall Street in the 1980s with Shearson Lehman and Citicorp commercial paper doing cash management and international trading. Next came a 10-year stint overseas, taking her oldest daughter for a world tour and home-schooling.

Apryl returned to the U.S. in 1998 and began Federal work with the U.S. Department of Defense as an IT Specialist for 5 years in the Boston and DC areas, with a year of duty in Bamberg, Germany. She returned to university in 2003 to pursue a degree in women's studies. Once finished, she headed to South Africa for the next 3 1/2 years, working with various nongovernmental organizations installing peer-to-peer networks and teaching Web design to young people.

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Office of Legacy Management Welcomes New Employees

Gwen Hooten joined LM on May 8, 2011, as a General Engineer and will be working with Environment Team 2 in the Westminster, Colorado, office. Gwen is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science in agricultural engineering. During the early part of her career, Gwen served as a commissioned officer in the 140th Civil Engineering Squadron and was stationed at Buckley Air National Guard (ANG) base in Aurora, Colorado. For several years, Gwen was involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of facilities in support of the Colorado ANG mission.

For the last 16 years, Gwen has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII in Denver. She served as a Remedial Project Manager under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs. Gwen led and directed site teams composed of technical, communication, and legal experts dedicated to the proper documentation of technically and legally defensible decisions and communication of such decisions to the public. She was involved in the development of Site Management Plans, enforcement strategies, community relations plans, legal reviews, Consent Agreements, settlements, and decision documents.

Nicole Pino joined LM on April 10, 2011, as a Staff Assistant and will be working with the Human Resource/ Administrative Team in the Grand Junction, Colorado, office. Nicole was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Clearwater, Florida. Nicole has over 13 years human resource and finance experience. She is currently completing her bachelor's degree in business management with an emphasis in Accounting.

David Shafer joined LM on April 10, 2011, as the Team Leader for Environmental Team 1 and Site Manager for Grand Junction, Colorado. David is returning to DOE where he worked from 1989 to 1998. His previous experience with the agency was primarily at DOE Headquarters in the Office of Environmental Management (EM) where he worked with EM programs at the Nevada and Albuquerque Offices, as well as Grand Junction, Colorado.

After spending 2 years at the Hanford Site, in 1998 David joined the Desert Research Institute (DRI), a nonprofit research campus of the Nevada System of Higher Education. At DRI, he developed and managed research programs for DOE as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Science Foundation, and several services of DOD.

David has a bachelor of science in geology and geography from Oregon State University, a master of science in geological sciences from the University of Tennessee, and a PhD in quaternary sciences from the University of Arizona.

His other work experience includes serving as a ranger for National Park Service, and teaching undergraduate geology and geomorphology classes at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. ❖

Goal 5

Office of Legacy Management Hires Interns for the Summer

Michael Warring Leonard Jr. was born and raised in Washington, DC. He joins LM from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is studying business administration with a concentration in finance. Following his tenure at Morehouse, Michael would like to pursue a master's degree in human resource management.

Carrie Nuva Joseph is from Hopiland, more specifically Lower Moenkopi, Arizona, and is a graduate student attending the University of Arizona with the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science. Her research will look at bio-uptake of native vegetation that could be used for evapotranspiration covers, if engineered covers are to be renovated. She has a passion for her research topic because she grew up in the Hopi village community that sits 5 miles south of the Tuba City site.

Garry Jay is from Shiprock, New Mexico, and is of the Navajo Nation's saltwater (To'diikonzhi) clan, born for redhouse (kinliichiinii) clan. His maternal clan is the edgewater (ta'baahe), and his paternal clan is the bitter water (Todiichiinii) clan. He attends Diné College, majoring in Navajo language, Diné studies, and liberal arts. Garry looks forward to gaining more valuable experience working with mother nature (Nihima' Nahadzaan), the earth, and the environment and to apply his experience to the study of incorporation of the culturally appropriate intervention of the role of education, Navajo conceptions of nature, and a culturally sensitive approach within the community. His goal is to give back to the community to help the next generation be more sustainable and self-efficient and to revitalize the Navajo language.

LaPorcia Wagner is from Florida and attends Howard University in Washington, DC, where she is a junior studying biology and chemistry. Her research interest is broad—from how the environment affects our health to how humans alter natural cycles to the mechanisms of different genetic disorders.

Jeremy Joseph attends Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) in Atlanta, Georgia, and is currently majoring in biology. Jeremy's research project was testing *enterococci* bacteria in the creek water near the AMC campus. He will continue the project when he returns during the fall semester. Jeremy is one of seven students accepted into the new AMC NASA Crest Research Program for undergraduates. ❖

Goal 5

U.S. Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated its Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) to promote safety and health performance among DOE contractors. The program arose from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) VPP, established in 1982, which OSHA administers with private industry.

The DOE-VPP is a cooperative effort among labor, management, and government at DOE contractor sites. DOE has also formed partnerships with other Federal agencies and the private sector for both advancing and sharing its VPP experiences. The safety and health of contractor and Federal employees are a high priority for the Department.

The 5 Key Elements of the VPP include Management Commitment, Employee Involvement, Worksite Analysis, Hazard Prevention and Control, and Health and Safety Training. Similar to OSHA's VPP program, the DOE-VPP provides several proven benefits to participating sites, including improved relations between labor and management, reduced workplace injuries and illnesses, increased employee involvement, improved morale, reduced absenteeism, and public recognition.

Earlier this year the S.M. Stoller Corporation (Stoller), LM's primary operating contractor, submitted a VPP application to LM. The application was reviewed and comments were returned to Stoller. The next step will be for Stoller to return the application to LM for verification of adequate resolution of our comments.

The application will then be forwarded to DOE's Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) for their review, which will include site visits. Discussions with HSS have indicated they are excited about receiving Stoller's application because of the breadth of locations across the country it comprises. Previous DOE-VPP applications have been for a contractor working at one site or location, unlike LM, which has sites across the country and beyond.

Upon completion of the HSS review, one of three levels of recognition will be awarded: Star, Merit, or Demonstration. Contractors whose programs meet the requirements for outstanding safety and health programs receive Star recognition, the highest achievement level. Contractors with highly effective programs, who commit themselves to attain Star status within a 5-year period, receive Merit recognition. A site can retain Merit recognition for a maximum of 5 years. The Demonstration level is rarely used; it allows DOE to recognize existing achievements in unusual situations about which more information is needed before approval requirements for the Star program can be determined. Once approved, Star sites are reevaluated every 3 years, while Merit and Demonstration sites are evaluated annually.

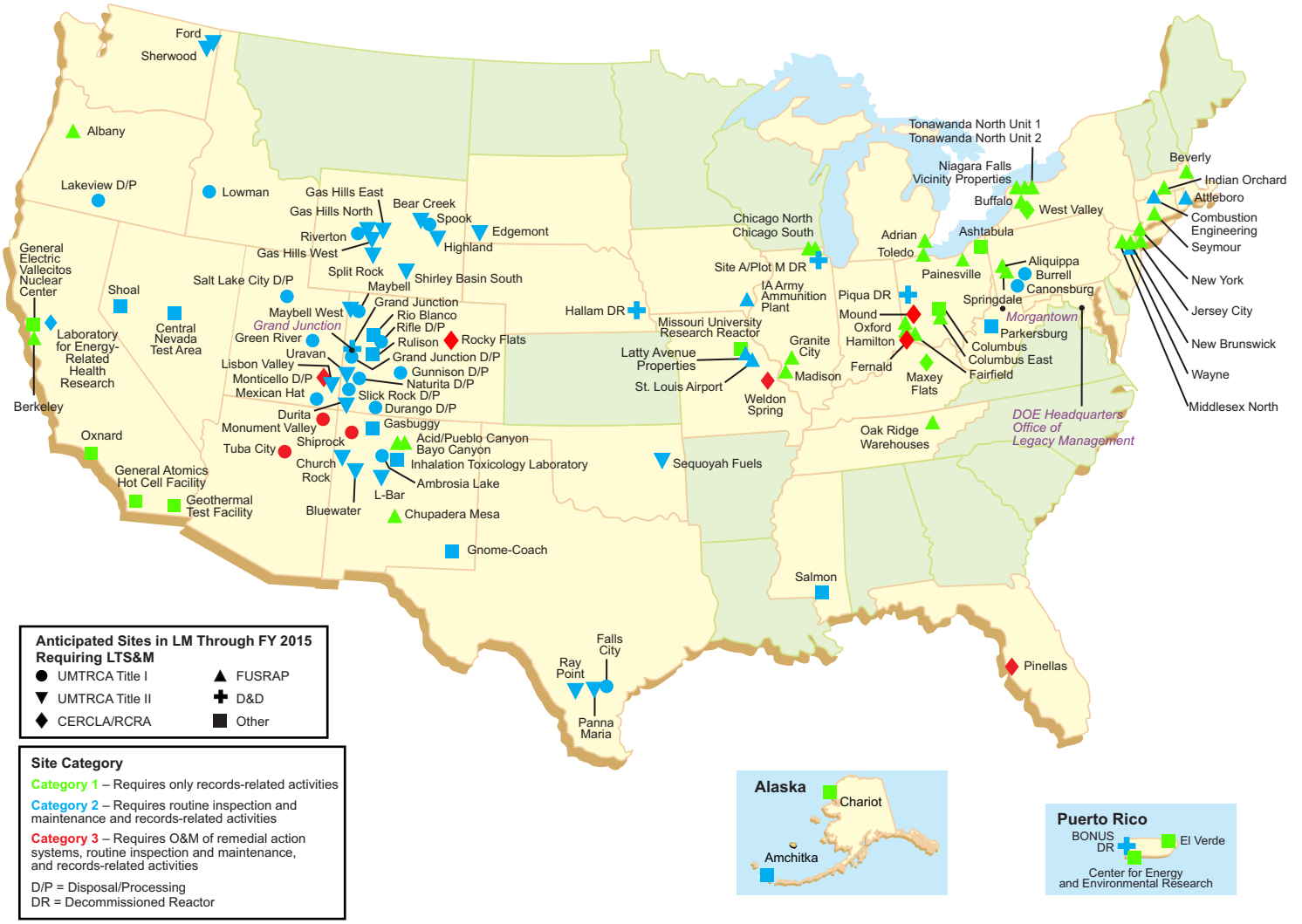
While the designation will be awarded to Stoller, the processes, procedures, and the culture cultivated in the workforce while attaining VPP recognition will benefit LM after our transition to the next prime contractor later in 2012. ❖

Continued from page 4

Student Explorers

In addition to the Fernald Preserve's school-oriented educational outreach activities, monthly programs focused on educating families on the natural world at the site are conducted. More than 230 people have attended five monthly programs this year, which have included such diverse topics as stargazing, a woodcock walk, an owl prowl, a session on water pathways, and a day-long event dedicated to bird migration. Activities scheduled for the rest of the year include a firefly event, observing the moon and Perseid meteor shower, and a BioBlitz, which gives volunteers an opportunity to work with scientists to collect data on plant and animal species. ❖

Anticipated LM Sites Through FY 2015



As environmental stewards, LM is continually seeking opportunities to protect tomorrow's future. One simple step we can take toward improving environmental consciousness is to distribute the *Program Update* newsletter via e-mail instead of sending a printed copy.

Please send your e-mail address and your first and last name to lm@hq.doe.gov so that we can update our database.

Thank you for your assistance.

LM Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. Protect human health and the environment

Objectives

1. Comply with environmental laws and regulations.
2. Reduce health risks and long-term surveillance and maintenance (LTS&M) costs.
3. Partner with other Federal programs to make environmental remedies better and last longer.
4. Oversee DOE implementation of Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*.

Goal 2. Preserve, protect, and share records and information

Objectives

1. Meet public expectations for outreach activities.
2. Protect records and make them accessible.
3. Protect and ensure access to information.

Goal 3. Meet commitments to the contractor work force

Objectives

1. Safeguard contractor pension plans.
2. Fund contractor health and life insurance.
3. Oversee compliance with DOE's work force restructuring policy.

Goal 4. Optimize the use of land and assets

Objectives

1. Optimize public use of Federal lands and properties.
2. Transfer excess government property.
3. Improve domestic uranium mining and milling operations.

Goal 5. Sustain management excellence

Objectives

1. Renew LM's designation as a high performing organization (HPO).
2. Implement LM's *Human Capital Management Plan*.
3. Operate in a sustainable manner and reduce LM's carbon footprint.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

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U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

Program Update

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