U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

# Program Update

July–September 2011

*Welcome to the July–September 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.*

*DOE Scientist Jason Nguyen (left) collecting a seawater sample for tritium analysis.*

## Inside this Update:



*Goal 1*

## LM Completes 2011 Monitoring at Amchitka Island

On July 27, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) completed the long-term monitoring of Amchitka Island, an event that occurs once every 5 years. To say that Amchitka Island, part of the southeastern part of the Aleutian Island chain of Alaska, is the most remote LM site is no understatement. "The site is so far west that it's actually in the eastern hemisphere!" says Mark Kautsky, the LM Site Manager for the former nuclear test site on Amchitka, where three underground nuclear tests were conducted between 1965 and 1971. Despite its remoteness, the monitoring at Amchitka ensures that food resources used by Native Aleuts are not impacted by contaminant migration from the underground nuclear tests.

Planning for the trip was especially challenging because many of the work activities required expertise across numerous technical disciplines; coordination between stakeholders and team members needing to access rough terrain; being prepared for adverse weather conditions, including tsunamis; and awareness of unexploded ordnance. In addition to sampling in and around Amchitka, LM also conducted sampling in the "reference area" around Adak Island. Adak, an island with similarities to Amchitka but not impacted by nuclear testing, was used as a comparison location.

The project team included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and LM. Additional support was also provided by a diving team under the direction of Dr. Steven Jewett from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The work was divided into two phases. The first phase

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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 5*

## LM Receives Federal Electronics Challenge Bronze Level Award

On September 19, 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Office of the Federal Environmental Executive recognized the achievements of multiple organizations for their leadership in the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) during fiscal year (FY) 2010. The Office of Legacy Management (LM) received a 2011 FEC Bronze Level Award, one of 16 Bronze Level Awards presented and one of 15 awards presented to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Successful application for this award was one of the FY 2010 Environmental Management System targets for LM. Electronics stewardship actions undertaken by LM have helped the Federal government improve its sustainability practices when purchasing, managing, and disposing of their electronic assets. Forty awards were presented during the awards ceremony held in Washington, DC, as part of the celebration of the beginning of Pollution Prevention Week. LM's award was accepted by Chris Clayton and Chris McNeil, who assisted with the award application. ❖

*LM delegates receive an award for leadership from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive as part of the Federal Electronic Challenge.*

*Goal 1*

## Environmentally Sound Management of Elemental Mercury Generated in the United States

The U.S. is committed to reducing the amount of mercury in the environment. A number of domestic strategies have been implemented and mercury reduction actions have been taken to accomplish this goal. On October 14, 2008, the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (the Act) became Public Law 110-414. The Act immediately enacted a prohibition on the sale, distribution, and transfer of elemental mercury held by Federal agencies and facilities. Effective January 1, 2013, export of elemental mercury from the U.S. will no longer be allowed and all elemental mercury not needed for domestic supply will be stored until an environmentally safe disposal option is available. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for implementing the long-term storage provisions in the Act which includes establishing a facility (or facilities) for the purpose of long-term management and storage of elemental mercury generated within the U.S. and developing procedures and standards that will govern receipt, management, and storage of the elemental mercury. The elemental mercury storage facility will have the capacity to accept up to 10,000 metric tons of elemental mercury that meets the waste acceptance criteria from generators (Federal and private industry) that decide to discard their elemental mercury at the facility. The DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM) will be responsible for the long-term management and storage operations of the facility.

*LM employee Gwen Hooten participated in a tour of the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.*

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*Goal 4*

## Fernald Preserve and Mound Site Offices Consolidation

The consolidation of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) Mound and Fernald Sites in Ohio was completed on September 19, 2011, when 12 contractor personnel were moved from the Mound Site to the administrative office near the Fernald Preserve. Due to the completion of remediation activities at the Mound Site, DOE's on-site presence is no longer required. Approximately 60 percent of the land and buildings have been turned over to the Mound Development Corporation, which has been developing and marketing the site as a technology park. The final parcels of land are scheduled to be transferred to the Mound Development Corporation in January 2012.

*The U.S. Department of Energy is transferring the 305-acre Mound Site to the Mound Development Corporation, which is successfully marketing the site as the Mound Advanced Technology Center.*

"Although we no longer have an on-site presence at Mound, the site's proximity to Fernald allows us to easily execute our legacy management mission at Mound," said Jane Powell, LM Fernald Preserve and Mound Sites Manager. In addition to the Fernald and Mound work scopes, the staff at Fernald supports numerous LM activities at Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I sites (Canonsburg and Burrell, Pennsylvania; and Falls City, Texas), decontamination and decommissioning sites (Piqua, Ohio; Site A/Plot M, Illinois; Hallam, Nebraska; and the Boiling Nuclear Superheater Site in Puerto Rico), and other sites (Parkersburg, West Virginia; and Maxey Flats, Kentucky). ❖

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## Environmentally Sound Management of Elemental Mercury Generated in the United States

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Strategic Materials, a U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) agency, has the responsibility to maintain a reliable inventory of critically needed materials that have potential national strategic importance. DLA manages a number of strategic commodities, including elemental mercury. In March 2011, DLA completed an effort to consolidate their elemental mercury inventory and centralize their mercury expertise at the Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD) located in Hawthorne, Nevada. The mercury stockpile there is approximately 9 million pounds of elemental mercury in over 128,000 metal flasks. The flasks (76 pounds each) have been overpacked in 30-gallon drums (6 flasks per drum) and arranged on pallets for shipment and storage (5 drums per pallet). The total elemental mercury inventory includes 21,500 single-stacked drums, or 4,436 metric tons, and is stored in 14 state-of-the-art warehouses. The estimated mercury emission from the stockpile storage is conservatively calculated to be less than 1 gram of mercury annually.

In July 2011, LM visited the HWAD to observe their state-of-the-art elemental mercury storage facilities. The tour was guided by the DLA representatives and contractor, SOC Nevada LLC. The DLA lessons learned in transporting and consolidating their elemental mercury at HWAD will be valuable as DOE establishes its own long-term management and storage facility for elemental mercury. Although the U.S. Government efforts to manage elemental mercury currently focus on long-term storage in aboveground facilities, the DOD, DLA, LM, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery are partnering to explore options that would allow for subsequent treatment and disposal in an environmentally safe and cost-effective manner. ❖

*Goal 1*

## Office of Legacy Management Demonstrates International Leadership in Management of Legacy Sites

With German unification, one of the world's largest uranium producers evolved into a government-owned remediation company, Wismut, GmbH (Wismut). This company was tasked with remediating the uranium mining legacies (i.e., contamination) left behind in Saxony and Thuringia in former East Germany. Since the end of the Cold War and the reunification of Germany, Wismut, a former Soviet-German stock company, has reclaimed landscapes under the direction and funding of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology.

The mining symposium, WISSYM 2011, held in Ronneburg, Germany, in May, provided a forum for the discussion of innovative remedial technologies applied under the Wismut large-scale environmental rehabilitation project, as well as the project's implications from an economic and regional perspective, and promoted a continued exchange of knowledge on aspects of sustainability and long-term management between German and foreign experts, which was both the motto and focal point of the symposium.

The WISSYM 2011 conference marked the 20-year milestone of the closure and cleanup of the mine workings owned by Wismut and was supported and funded by the German Ministry of Economics and Technology. Many of the participants represented private industry, government, and international interests all tied to the Wismut story and its legacy.

Steve Schiesswohl, Asset Management Team Leader, was asked to present the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) story on the differences and similarities of the last 20 years of the cleanup, closure, and establishment of the long-term management of the U.S. uranium mill tailings projects under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA). It soon became evident that many of the participants in the meeting hall had been following and participating in the UMTRCA program simultaneously with Wismut activities and a host of other projects around the world, given that the end of the Cold War affected many areas around the world at the same time.

*Reclaimed valley of tailings at the Bad Schlema mine, Thuringia, Germany*

Another thing also became clear: LM is the only entity in the world dedicated to the management and protection of the legacy sites after cleanup and closure. Many programs were committed to cleanup and closure, and Wismut was at the top of the list. LM, however, had the infrastructure, legal framework, and organizational ability in place to monitor and oversee the long-term care and protection of the legacy sites. This role became the focus of the paper presented by LM, "Balancing Institutional Controls and Beneficial Reuse at U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management Sites."

LM manages DOE's post-closure responsibilities at 87 sites in 28 states and Puerto Rico to ensure future protection of human health and the environment. LM is responsible for ensuring that DOE's post-closure, long-term responsibilities resulting from the nuclear weapons production and the Cold War legacies are met. LM has control and custody of legacy land, structures, and facilities and is responsible for maintaining them at levels suitable for long-term use. Given the long-lived nature of radionuclides, long-term surveillance, monitoring, and maintenance at some sites will be required for hundreds or even thousands of years.

An integral part of LM's responsibility is monitoring institutional controls that are developed to ensure that the land and resources, such as groundwater, do not allow exposure pathways to contamination remaining

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*Goal 1*

## Navajo Nation and DOE Collaborate to Remediate the Highway 160 Site

On August 29, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) accepted the final shipment of residual radioactive material (RRM) from the Highway 160 Site near Tuba City, Arizona. In collaboration with the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM), the Navajo Nation remediated the site.

In 2003, the Navajo Nation discovered a contaminated property north of Highway 160, just north of the Tuba City Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I disposal cell. The 16-acre property is vacant but there are 14 residential structures within 1 mile of the site.

The property had radiological contamination that appeared to come from the former UMTRCA Title I mill site, but DOE no longer had congressional authority to cleanup mill-related waste. Instead, in fiscal year 2009, Congress appropriated $5 million to DOE to remediate the site. The funding was transferred to the Navajo Nation to conduct the majority of the work.

EM's Technical Assistance Contractor for the Moab, Utah, Project, S&K Aerospace, characterized the extent of radiological contamination at the Highway 160 Site. Thirteen deposits of contaminated soil within a 6-acre area were identified with a depth of contamination ranging from 3 to 7 feet.

*The Grand Junction Disposal Site, with loose stockpiles and bags of radiologically contaminated material from remediation of the Highway 160 Site.*

The characterization concluded that the radioactive waste originated from the adjoining Tuba City mill site and could therefore be classified as RRM and disposed of at the Grand Junction, Colorado, Disposal Site (GJDS), which is managed by LM. Congress authorized DOE to keep the GJDS open to receive RRM from properties discovered after DOE's authority to remediate RRM expired in 1998. LM opens the cell when needed to accommodate cleanups such as the Highway 160 site. LM worked with EM and the Navajo Nation to keep the cell open during the remediation of the Highway 160 Site. The RRM was hauled by truck from the Highway 160 Site to the GJDS and is currently stored in bags and in a loose stockpile.

The 2-day, 750-mile round-trip from Tuba City to Grand Junction required close coordination between the Navajo Nation, EM, and LM. Over 400 truck loads were transported between June 14 and August 29, 2011. The Highway 160 Site will be backfilled with clean fill material and revegetated this fall. The project will be completed approximately 1 year ahead of schedule, thanks to the collaboration and commitment of the entire project team. ❖

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## LM Completes 2011 Monitoring at Amchitka Island

included terrestrial monitoring on Amchitka and Adak Islands and cap-inspection activities on Amchitka Island (geosynthetic caps were constructed over 12 former mud pits that store the stabilized drilling mud from the emplacement holes on Amchitka). The second phase included biological monitoring of marine organisms in the waters surrounding Amchitka and Adak Islands. Phase I was completed over a 1-week period, whereas Phase II was completed over a 4-week time period.

The sampling this year builds on previous monitoring by many Atomic Energy Commission and DOE investigators, and most recently by the Institute for Responsible Management, Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP). The previous monitoring done by CRESP in 2006 showed that seafood harvested near Amchitka was safe for human consumption.

The monitoring done this year by LM is designed to ensure food safety and to measure background activity level of radionuclides in marine organisms at the reference area and compare those to the levels in marine organisms along the coast of Amchitka. The background activity levels of radionuclides obtained for the reference area will enable quantitative statistical trending of future sampling results. Because radionuclide concentrations from the nuclear testing could have been altered this year by atmospheric fallout from the Fukushima-Daichi power plant disaster in Japan in March 2011, LM is also including radioisotopes from nuclear power plants to its list of target analytes.

"We're also looking at tritium activities in seawater near Amchitka to see if we can't detect seepage of contaminated groundwater into the marine environment," says Kautsky. Results of seawater sampling can be used to verify contaminant transport modeling predictions from the underground test shots into the marine environment, conducted by the Desert Research Institute as part of the DOE Office of Environmental Management closure of the site.

"Overall, this is a very comprehensive monitoring event and should help us build trust with the people of Alaska," says Kautsky. Results from the 2011 sampling at Amchitka will be known starting in December 2011 and the final reporting will be completed and made available in 2012. ❖

*Aleut Fisherman Mike McCoy collecting a Pacific cod sample.*

*Lichen sampling on Adak Island by Aleut team member Karen Pletnikoff.*

*Goal 1*

## Weldon Spring Culvert Removal Project

During remediation activities at the Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site Remedial Action Project in St. Charles, Missouri, in the 1990s, efforts were made to remove all accessible contaminated material and soil from the site and surrounding properties. However, several inaccessible areas with low-level fixed radiological contamination were left in place and supplemental limits were obtained, allowing the contaminated media to remain in place above the stipulated remedial action levels. No excess risk to the public or the environment existed at these sites.

One of the legacy sites consisted of twin 130-foot-long, 5-foot-diameter corrugated metal drainage culverts that transected Highway D in St. Charles County. These drainage culverts receive stormwater runoff from the Weldon Spring site and were installed in the early 1940s. Previous remedial actions related to these culverts consisted of removing approximately 20-foot sections on the outlet end of both culverts and removing radiologically contaminated soils from beneath the culverts. Investigation and removal actions were terminated due to encroachment into the Highway D right-of-way and a fiber optic cable in the near vicinity. Regulatory approval was granted to allow any remaining contamination to remain in place since it was contained within and beneath the drainage culverts and presented no excess risk to human health and the environment. Provisions were created in the *Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan for the U.S. Department of Energy Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site* to address whether the culverts would be left in place and further remediation conducted if the entire culverts needed replaced during future Highway D maintenance and upgrade activities. LM agreed that they would remove the culverts and any associated underlying contaminated soils that existed at levels above the established cleanup attainment goals.



The opportunity to remove and remediate the culvert area presented itself in late 2010 when the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) notified LM that they were upgrading Highway D, which included replacing aging culverts that transected the highway at various locations throughout the roadway. Most of these culverts had been installed in the 1940s. It was MoDOT's opinion that the two 60-inch culverts were in dire need of replacement and presented an imminent hazard due to the potential for collapse. A series of meetings occurred between LM and MoDOT to discuss the sequencing and logistics of the project. Complicating the removal effort was the MoDOT requirement that construction projects that close public highways minimize closure time, a requirement that is enforced by

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## Weldon Spring Culvert Removal Project

instituting severe damage clauses and liquidated damages clauses in their agreements and contracts (for this project, stipulated damages amounted to $1,000 per hour). MoDOT agreed to remove the asphalt roadway above the culverts. However, MoDOT requested that once the asphalt had been removed, LM would only have 48 hours to remove the uncontaminated overlying soil, the contaminated culverts, and any soils exceeding cleanup levels that potentially existed around and beneath the drainage pipelines. After the culvert removals and release of the work area, MoDOT would then take back control of the project, install new drainage culverts, and complete the work in the Highway D right-of-way.

In order to perform the tasks within the limited timeframe requested by MoDOT and a quickly approaching start date, LM utilized an existing basic ordering agreement subcontractor to perform the excavation and remediation work. This was a key decision in moving the project forward as this subcontractor had preapproved rates and had recently worked on other LM sites. Therefore, this subcontractor was familiar with working with radiologically contaminated material and understood the emphasis placed on health and safety controls that would be required for this type of work. The subcontractor was also willing to be flexible with start dates and changing site requirements, such as weather delays or schedule changes dictated by MoDOT's subcontractor. This aspect was tested to the limit since MoDOT changed their removal initiation dates five times.

A second key component was the sequencing of activities so that the preremoval support work could be completed prior to the actual culvert excavation and removal work commencing. These tasks included clearing and grubbing outside of the right-of-way, construction of the on-site temporary staging area, and establishing contingency plans for labor, equipment, and materials. These contingency plans reduced the chance for any activity being a hold point or a point of failure during the extremely limited project execution timeframe. Additionally, work plans, readiness reviews, job safety analyses, and radiological work permits were prepared and approved prior to activities commencing. Regulatory concurrence with the proposed activities was also obtained.


*After the culverts were excavated, radiation surface scanning was conducted.*

The actual excavation and removal activities commenced the afternoon of August 29. All of the preremoval tasks had been completed in the weeks prior. Once the contaminated culverts were removed and surrounding soils radiologically scanned for release, soil confirmation samples were collected. Results of the confirmation soil samples indicated all results were below the previous site cleanup standard established to meet the DOE goal of "as low as reasonably achievable," and therefore, no institutional controls will be required at this site in the future. The clean soil removal and culvert removal and transportation tasks were done safely and successfully in approximately 53 hours. It was evident that the project team had clearly planned each task and was able to modify actions as changing site conditions presented themselves throughout the removal action. This resulted in an extremely efficiently executed project that yielded the requisite results in a safe work environment. ❖

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## LM Demonstrates International Leadership in Management of Legacy Sites

at the site. Many of these restrictions are established at the time of site closure and are part of the remedy and regulatory documents or are implemented due to continued monitoring and site characterization. These restrictions and institutional controls are documented in site-specific Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plans, deed restrictions, or other administrative controls at LM sites.

In 2004, LM established goals to review land holdings and identify locations that have the potential for beneficial reuse. The intent was to reduce the Federal footprint and to promote beneficial reuse on Federal lands, while abiding by the specific institutional controls of the individual sites. Beneficial reuse includes a range of options such as completing site transfer to third parties, partnering with industry for renewable energy, or utilizing the land for agricultural, conservation, or recreational purposes. Enforceable, visible, and durable institutional controls are developed to ensure that any current and future site activities, such as beneficial reuse, are designed to be consistent with the primary goal and any regulatory requirements of protecting human health and the environment.

At the Bad Schlema mine in Thuringia, the Wismut remediation, stabilization, and reclamation of the mining operations and tailings occupied miles of valleys surrounding villages and towns. According to a Wismut spokesman, the treatment plant, a physical institutional control, will be operating as long as the area has residents; in other words, forever.

The Wismut rehabilitation at the Bad Schlema mine resulted in one of the best reuse examples that combined protective measures, visibility, and a long-term reuse that is easily monitored. There is even a nine-hole golf course on top of one of the tailings piles. The remediation success at this mine demonstrates the challenges of balancing reuse in a protective and productive manner while ensuring that the institutional controls associated with restrictions to water use, soil disturbance, and other land uses are not jeopardized.

It is recognized that many of the conflicts and challenges in Europe and Central Asia are unique and not found in the United States. Some of these areas have no funding or infrastructure to perform cleanup or restrict the use of water that seeps through or off resulting tailings piles.

*Meeting with the IAEA at the International Center in Vienna, Austria*

The legal and infrastructure framework in these countries and the funding mechanisms to accomplish the remediation are varied in both the process and strengths and weaknesses. Some countries are well into their cleanup process and are looking toward future reuse opportunities, while others have made no progress toward remediation.

The symposium resulted in LM reestablishing relationships with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that led to meetings at their office in Vienna, Austria. In addition, LM became a member of the Regulatory Supervision of Legacy Sites, the IAEA working group that supports member states with uranium mine and mill site remediation and reclamation.

LM has been part of the international focus on remediation of legacy sites since the national Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance conference held in Grand Junction, Colorado, in 2010, and through various presentations by both the IAEA and LM personnel in Cherbourg, France (2009), and the Waste Management Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona (2011). ❖

*Goal 2*

## NARA Inspects the LM Business Center


On August 30 and 31, 2011, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) performed a formal onsite inspection of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) Business Center (BC) in Morgantown, West Virginia. The inspection, which was made at the request of LM, was carried out under NARA's authority to inspect the records management (RM) practices of Federal agencies (44 *U.S. Code* Chapter 29, "Records Management by the Archivist of the United States and by the Administrator of General Services," sections 2904(c) (7), "General Responsibilities for Records Management," and 2906, "Inspection of Agency Records"). In conjunction with the physical facility inspection, NARA examined the RM policies, practices, and procedures throughout LM.


The inspection commenced with the arrival of NARA representatives and introductions made by Mr. John Montgomery, the Archives and Information Management Team Leader. A tour of the LMBC was provided by members of the Archive Information and Records Management team and Facilities Management personnel from the LM support contractor. The tour addressed facility specifications, security, and the "green" design. The building has received two Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications to the Gold level by the U.S. Green Building Council. Additionally, RM personnel provided demonstrations of the LM Electronic Recordkeeping System and warehouse operations. The NARA team was presented with a notebook of LM responses to posed questions, as well as the appropriate attachments. The notebook was well received by NARA representatives.

Resultant from their inspection, NARA representatives issued an inspection report and found that: (1) the LMBC is constructed and operated in a manner that meets high standards for records center facilities; (2) the RM program is appropriately staffed, well organized, and efficient; (3) the procedures for transferring records to the LMBC are appropriate; and (4) the RM training program ensures that personnel are aware of important RM principles and procedures. The NARA representatives found the Federal and contractor personnel very cooperative and supportive of the effort. The inspection team specifically acknowledged the support received from Mr. John Montgomery (LM), Ms. Karen Hatch (LM), Ms. Jeanie Gueretta (LM), and Ms. Ruth McKinney (LM support contractor). ❖

*Goal 1*

# Environmental Justice Activities

## LM Executes Environmental Justice Interagency Collaborative Newsletter

In September 2011, the first edition of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) newsletter was issued. This newsletter is one of many opportunities the agencies are using to share information and to communicate the various collaborative efforts ongoing throughout the EJ IWG. ❖

## Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust

The Environmental Justice Program has partnered with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to convene the Environmental Justice Braintrust during the 41st CBC Annual Legislative Conference. The Braintrust brings together leaders from around the country to discuss the latest developments in a particular subject area and to map out a plan for moving forward.

This year's Braintrust continues the conversation on domestic energy resources which, while developed as a part of a comprehensive national energy policy, will reduce America's dependence on foreign oil. The program recognizes and incorporates the unique relationship between human health, environmental quality, environmental justice, and economic development in assuring a better quality of life in cities and towns across the nation. ❖

## Community Leaders Institutes Held in Blackville, South Carolina, and Huntsville, Alabama

Two Community Leaders Institutes (CLIs), sponsored by the Medical University of South Carolina and the U.S. Department of Energy, were held in summer 2011—one at Clemson University Edisto Research and Education Center on July 29 and 30 and another at Alabama A&M University on August 26 and 27.

The CLIs provide an opportunity for community leaders to discuss environmental and other issues in their communities. Progress requires informed and active leaders; these CLIs reinforce this principle and emphasize the unique relationship between environmental protection, human health, environmental justice, and economic development. ❖

## Obama Administration Advances Efforts to Protect Health of U.S. Communities Overburdened by Pollution

Building on its commitment to ensure strong protection from environmental and health hazards for all Americans, the Obama Administration announced that Federal agencies have agreed to develop environmental justice strategies to protect the health of people living in communities overburdened by pollution and provide the public with annual progress reports on their efforts. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley, and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder were joined by agency heads across the Administration in signing the "Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898" (EJ MOU).

"This agreement is an important step in furthering the Administration's commitment to ensuring healthy communities for all Americans – free from environmental and health hazards," said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu. "The Department of Energy is aggressively investing in clean energy in order to improve the environment, strengthen the economy, save families money, and create the clean technology jobs of the future here at home."

The signing of the EJ MOU is the latest in a series of steps the Obama Administration has taken to elevate the environmental justice conversation and address the inequities that may be present in some communities. The EJ MOU broadens the reach of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJ IWG) to include participant agencies not originally named in Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,* and adopts an EJ IWG Charter, which provides the work group with more structure and direction. It also formalizes the environmental justice commitments that agencies have made over the past year, providing a roadmap for agencies to better coordinate their efforts. The MOU also outlines processes and procedures to help overburdened communities more efficiently and effectively engage agencies as they make decisions. ❖

*Goal 5*

## Office of Legacy Management Welcomes New Employees

**Elizabeth Holland** joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) on July 3, 2011, as a Property Specialist and will be working with the Asset Management Team in the Grand Junction, Colorado, office. Elizabeth worked with GSA for 15 years as a Contracting Officer in Real Estate for Region 7 and 9. She began her career with GSA managing small leases throughout Wyoming and Montana. As her career expanded, she managed the entire Federal real property inventory of 120 leases throughout the state of Arizona as well as new construction, including the Sandra Day O'Connor courthouse, a $14.5 million construction project starting with the Prospectus development and submittal to Congress, all the way through managing the construction process for GSA and starting rent in STAR, GSA's database.

In addition, she worked with the United States Air Force for 2 years managing the Real Property department at Lackland Air Force Base, which consisted of 1,200 facilities, including office space, conference and training space, hangars, runways, flight simulator trainers, gun-smith laboratories, chapels, medical facilities, veterinary facilities, as well as Air Force working canine kennels and canine training facilities.

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**Nancy Howard** joined LM on September 26, 2011, as a budget analyst working within the Planning, Budget, and Acquisition Team in the Washington, DC, office. Nancy was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, and spent most of her life in the Washington, DC, area. She is currently working on her bachelor's degree majoring in business administration at Strayer University.

She has over 17 years of government experience. Her most recent experience was with the U.S. Department of Defense Washington Headquarters Service where she worked in budget execution. Nancy has served Office of Management and Budget, Budget Review and Concepts Division, which supported the team that produced the President's budget. She also has 9 years of service on Capitol Hill with the U.S. Senate working with Senators Moynihan and Levin. Part of her 9 years on Capitol Hill was spent working with the U.S. Capitol Police.

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**Dorothy (Dee) Vasquez** joined LM on September 12, 2011, as a Budget Analyst for the Planning, Budget, and Acquisition Team in the Grand Junction, Colorado, office. Dee will be transferring to the Westminster, Colorado, office where she will continue her role as Budget Analyst. She was born in Denver, Colorado, and spent most of her life there. Dee has a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. She has worked with DOE for over 28 years. Most of her experience was at the Rocky Flats, Colorado, Site, where she worked as a contractor for 23 years in accounting, program support, and budget analysis. In 2006, she accepted a position with DOE's Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dee worked at the EMCBC as the Lead Budget Analyst for 5 years, where she supported the Budget Team in managing the operating budgets for the various Office of Environmental Management closure sites, including Rocky Flats, Colorado; Mound and Fernald, Ohio; Carlsbad Field Office, New Mexico; Lexington Site Office, Kentucky; and the Small Program Sites (West Valley and Separations Process Research Unit, New York; Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and Energy Technology Engineering Center, California; and Moab, Utah). ❖

*Goal 5*

## 2011 LM All-Hands Training

The 2011 LM All-Hands Training was held August 1 through 4, 2011, in Flagstaff, Arizona. The theme was Preserving Tribal Knowledge: Learning from the Past, Protecting the Future. The Training featured team exercises, meetings, and poster sessions on a variety of LM projects.

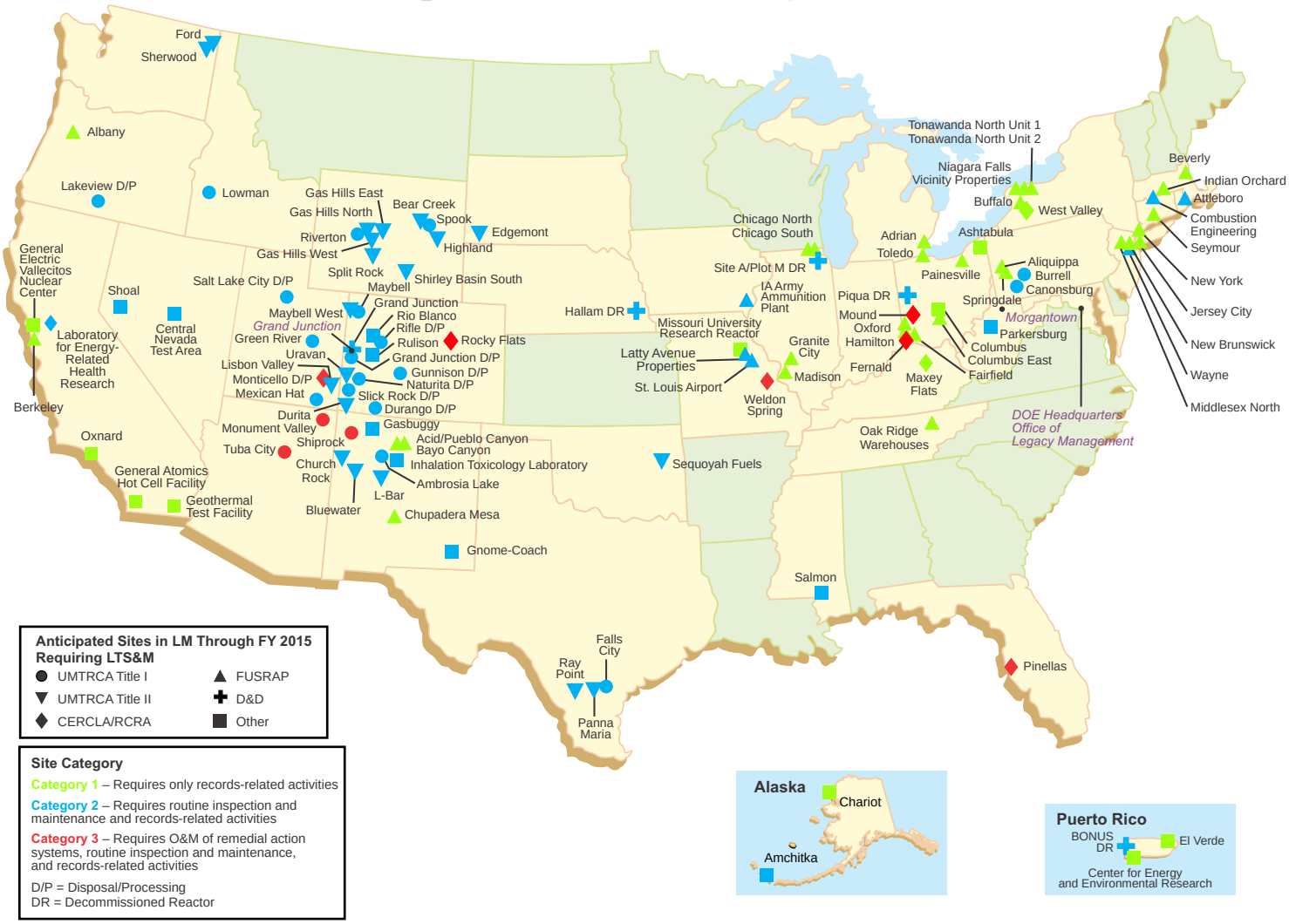
Native American dancers demonstrated music, dance, costumes, and the tradition of story telling.

Tribal elders provided a special presentation on Hopi culture, traditions, and history at the Hopi Village of Moenkopi, Arizona.

LM staff toured the Navajo Museum in Tuba City, Arizona.

A tour of the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site provided information on site operations, the disposal cell, the distillation unit, and solar photovoltaic units.

# 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.

# Legacy Management Goals

## 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

1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Legacy Management

# Program Update

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## Documents Requested

1. _____
2. _____
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