



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Legacy Management

PROGRAM UPDATE

JULY-SEPT
2025



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Key Element to
LM Mission*

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*Mary Young LM's
Employee of the Year*

LM COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of **ENERGY**

Office of Legacy Management

*Tour of the Grants Mining District near
Church Rock, New Mexico, in February 2025.*





Tour of the Grants Mining District near
Church Rock, New Mexico, in February 2025.

Director's Corner



Public Engagement with Stakeholders, Tribal Partners Critical in LM Operations

We've all heard how difficult communications can be — take the example of children in a classroom. A child in the front of the room gets a message and each student passes it to the next until it reaches the final student. Inevitably, the message that makes its way to the back of the room is dramatically different from the original.

Even with adults, we know that communications are never easy.

When you throw in the complexities of nuclear science, regulatory agreements across multiple states, the unique characteristics of 103 sites, different technical remedies, cultural perspectives, historical considerations, and multiple stakeholder groups in each community, then it is no surprise that the Office of Legacy Management's (LM) communications work is a challenging proposition.

In this edition of *Program Update*, many of these efforts are outlined. There is information about the various ways LM performs the critical work of engaging with our stakeholders, Tribal partners, and other agencies. Those efforts include:

- Offering opportunities for engagement at various meetings, conferences, and fairs.
- Telling the heroic stories of everyday Americans who played a role in winning World War II and the Cold War at LM interpretive centers.
- Answering Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Coordinating with Tribal partners through routinely scheduled exchanges.
- Offering communication channels through social media, this quarterly magazine, the LM website, and other platforms to communicate LM's work.
- Creating written, visual, and digital communication products that explain LM's work and various methodologies.
- Providing translation services for non-English-speaking stakeholders and Tribal partners.

- Coordinating technical communications with members of the public and subject matter experts to ensure information is conveyed in an understandable manner.
- Providing educational programs for teachers and students.
- Assisting former workers with support efforts through the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

LM also has a robust employee communications program that provides important information to staff, emphasizing the safety of everyone inside and outside of LM who have connections to the LM program.

We call our talented group of communications professionals the ECHO team (Education, Communication, History, and Outreach). Their work with LM site managers, subject matter experts, stakeholders, and Tribal partners allows us to inform and learn from our communities and helps foster important relationships that are critical to our mission of protecting human health and the environment.

At LM, we are proud of our technical accomplishments and progress we have made related to our long-term stewardship mission. And we are equally proud of the relationships we have with the public, Tribal partners, state and federal agencies, and others that we have cultivated over many years with honest and forthright communications.

The progress we have seen throughout LM's history was not accomplished alone. Stakeholders, Tribal partners, and everyone who plays a role in our mission shares in that progress and those success stories. That cooperation has been instrumental and the communications that have occurred — and continue to occur — are a hallmark of our work.

Warm regards,

Carmelo

Carmelo Melendez



Welcome to the July-September 2025 issue of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management **Program Update**. This publication is designed to provide a status of activities within LM. Please direct all comments and inquiries to LM-ProgramUpdate@lm.doe.gov.

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GOAL ONE
Protect human health
and the environment.



GOAL TWO
Preserve, protect,
and share records
and information.



GOAL THREE
Safeguard former
contractor workers'
retirement benefits.



GOAL FOUR
Sustainably manage
and optimize the use
of land and assets.



GOAL FIVE
Sustain management
excellence.



GOAL SIX
Engage the public,
governments, and
interested parties.



Public Communication and Engagement: A Key Element to LM's Mission

ECHO team uses wide range of outreach methods

The Office of Legacy Management (LM) has a well-defined mission, and one of its important goals is to engage the public, governments, and other interested parties. LM focuses on this goal through creative methods to reach a variety of audiences.



The ECHO team plays a critical role in sharing the positive impact of LM's mission.

—David Von Behren

LM's Education, Communication, History, and Outreach (ECHO) team acts as a bridge between the public, stakeholders, and LM, facilitating critical information exchanges. The ECHO team provides information about LM sites and programs to local communities, Tribal nations, and local and state governments.

"The ECHO team plays a critical role in sharing the positive impact of LM's mission," said LM ECHO Supervisor David Von Behren. "It's important that the public be informed on issues that affect their communities and how those issues are being addressed on a federal level."

ECHO aims to communicate accurate and timely information, supporting LM's mission that includes protecting human health and the environment at its 103 sites in the United States and Puerto Rico. ECHO helps LM honor regional heritages and fosters understanding of multiple parties through programs, events, and public meetings. Many subject matter experts and site managers play a key role in supporting ECHO's work. ECHO also communicates with the public through digital platforms, including the LM website (www.energy.gov/lm/office-legacy-management), social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube), and email distributions.

"Within LM, we use various external platforms to make sure the public is aware of the important work we are doing across the breadth of LM's mission," Von Behren said. "We maintain strong relationships with all the local communities and Tribal nations that LM serves. Without those relationships that ECHO helps cultivate, it would be more difficult to navigate complex issues and understand the history and sentiments in these communities. Building these partnerships and collaborating on solutions has been mutually beneficial and an example of good government."

LM's ECHO team coordinates with regional media on issues related to active projects, the history of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, public events, and more. LM also operates three interpretive centers that are staffed by ECHO personnel:



LM staff and support partners meet with their Hopi and Navajo partners in Grand Junction, Colorado, in mid-April. The meeting was one of three that take place every year in various locations.

- **Atomic Legacy Cabin,**
Grand Junction, Colorado.
- **Fernald Preserve Visitors Center,**
Hamilton County, Ohio.
- **Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center,**
St. Charles County, Missouri.

The interpretive centers provide historical information on those unique sites along with information about their cleanups and ongoing operations. Read more about each interpretive center in this edition of *Program Update*.

Besides community relationships, LM has other responsibilities with the public. LM addresses Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and inquiries related to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), which is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

FOIA is the law that provides individuals the right of access to federal agency records, with a few exceptions. DOE has its own regulations for addressing FOIA requests, and LM helps process FOIA requests related to its sites and other LM records.

The EEOICPA compensates current and former employees; DOE contractor and subcontractor employees; eligible survivors of such employees; and uranium miners, millers,

and ore transporters as defined by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Section 5 for any occupational illnesses that are causally linked to toxic exposures in DOE or mining work environments. LM helps process these requests and ensures they are submitted correctly.

"We are committed to cooperation in all our work across LM. People matter first, and how we approach engagement, outreach, and communications is crucial to LM's mission and upholding the integrity of our office," Von Behren said. "The work that went on at these sites was important to the nation's defense. We owe it to the public to be transparent about the federal government's impact and how we can be good partners as we carry out our responsibilities to long-term stewardship."

To follow LM activities, please visit our website at energy.gov/lm or follow our Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube pages at "Office of Legacy Management."

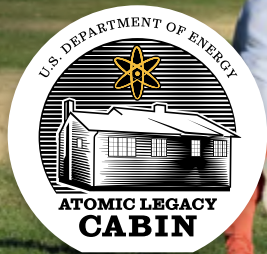


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GOAL SIX



Atomic Legacy Cabin

Brings History of Manhattan Project to Life

Historic building played vital role in search for uranium

Students at Tope Elementary in Grand Junction, Colorado, participate in a Build Your Own Rocket activity led by Atomic Legacy Cabin interpretive staff during Nuclear Science Week in 2023.

The Atomic Legacy Cabin in Grand Junction, Colorado, is a site rich with unique Colorado history. It is listed on the U.S.'s National Register of Historic Places and is an emblem of the region's crucial role in America's atomic history.

The Colorado Plateau provided 14% of the uranium used in the Manhattan Project, and Grand Junction (located on the Colorado Plateau) was one of western Colorado's largest cities and a hub for milling and mining. What began as a small log cabin office — purchased on a 55-acre crescent of land by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Second Lieutenant

Philip C. Leahy — now stands as a public interpretive center and a site for education, outreach, and history since its opening on June 6, 2019.

The cabin tells visitors about historical uranium milling and mining on the Colorado Plateau, focusing on efforts to remediate environmental hazards and manage legacy sites. The cabin supports the Office of Legacy Management's (LM) mission to protect human health and the environment by helping it fulfill its goals of retaining historic records, engaging the public, and managing land and assets sustainably.

The Atomic Legacy Cabin has established free enriching educational programming in history and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines that are available on-site and off-site through school and community outreach visits.

This summer, the cabin hosted its inaugural Girl Scouts Day, led by LM scientists and interpretive staff. Several local troops engaged in outdoor STEM activities and interacted with LM's women scientists who discussed their STEM careers.

Additionally, the cabin participated for the fourth year in a row in the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival, the largest annual outdoor water festival in Colorado, which brings fifth grade students from across Colorado's Western Slope to celebrate the end of the school year and participate in engaging STEM activities about water uses and resources in their local community.

[➔ Learn more on Page 16.](#)

In 2025, the cabin extended its hours to five days a week — a testament to public interest and the growing necessity of expanding access to reach

STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery engages with visitors at the Atomic Legacy Cabin.

audiences and fulfill LM's educational mission. STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery summarizes the organizational significance of the Atomic Legacy Cabin's programming: "The cabin's exhibits and educational programs directly support LM's goal to educate and engage the public, ensuring DOE's legacy is kept alive and this critical chapter of American history is not forgotten."

Partnership and collaboration are hallmarks of the Atomic Legacy Cabin, and in 2024 LM worked with the Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center and the Moab Museum in Moab, Utah, to help support the museum's new exhibit titled "U92: Moab's Uranium Legacy." LM lent the Moab Museum a variety of historical objects for this exhibit; staff at the cabin are always excited to contribute to ongoing historical interpretation and exhibit development. Also in 2024, the interpretive staff hosted the Rifle High School theatre department's cast of *Radium Girls* on a cabin tour, providing outreach materials and a Uranium 101 activity for an interactive display at the opening night of the play.

The cabin has hosted several summer interns since its opening, and this ongoing opportunity has forwarded LM's goals of protecting historic records and engaging the public. In 2024, the cabin hosted an intern who organized and catalogued precious historical historical objects, ensuring valuable historical resources are properly preserved and accessible for future generations.

Montgomery believes that involving young people in

LM's work displays the Office's commitment to long-term stewardship by cultivating the next generation of historians and museum professionals who will carry on the meaningful legacy of the cabin and further LM's mission to preserve and share records and information with the public.

The cabin continuously adds to its roster of available programming to reach new audiences and increase engagement with the public. This fall, the cabin will debut a new program called Science Friday where local educators can sign up their class for immersive and exciting field trips that include a tour of the cabin and an interactive STEM demonstration led by interpretive staff.

Last year, staff at the cabin digitally reached an initial 1,567 people with their back-to-school campaign that spanned LM's social channels, LM News, and the cabin's mailing list. This year, the outreach will expand. Copies of the cabin's updated program booklet will be delivered directly to local teachers and reminders of the cabin's activities and hours will be regularly published on LM's social media.

The Atomic Legacy Cabin provides lifelong education, an exchange of important historical records and information, and space for members of the public, government, and interested groups to engage in meaningful dialogue about the Colorado Plateau's atomic legacy.

The interpretive center also shows how LM strives to sustainably reuse and manage land and assets for the benefit of the American people. The cabin has been transformed from a former industrial site into a resource that serves the community while honoring the area's historical significance.

You can learn more about the Atomic Legacy Cabin here: energy.gov/lm/atomic-legacy-cabin



Interpretive Center Manager Richie Ashcraft poses with Atomic Legacy Cabin Intern Hailey Antill.



Students explore the Atomic Legacy Cabin on Girl Scouts Day.



GOAL SIX



Fernald Preserve Visitors Center: Community Education and Information Resource with a View

Programs focus on nature, history, remediation, and stewardship

Students look out over the preserve from the top of the On-Site Disposal Facility.

At the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center near Hamilton, Ohio, sharing the site's rich history and present biodiversity with the surrounding communities is a big job — at least as big as the 1,050-acre Fernald Preserve itself. Constructed in 2008 as a resource to support the preserve's ongoing remediation under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the visitors center is an educational asset to the community that serves as an institutional control supporting the site remedy, maintaining the site's rich history, and providing insight into the site cleanup.

Combining school programming and a wide array of events, activities, and community outreach efforts, the visitors center has grown to become a key educational and environmental resource in southwest Ohio. With back-to-school season just weeks away, the visitors center is gearing up to provide a menu of student-focused programming that will connect students in grades one to 12 to a variety of topics relating to the site's history and mission including ecology, the water cycle, wildlife, and a host of science-related topics.

Along with younger students and high schoolers, the visitors center also provides programs for college students and adults, providing learning opportunities on ecological restoration, groundwater cleanup, environmental sciences, and the site history from preproduction through remediation. Importantly, the visitors center programming also covers the present mission of long-term stewardship that ensures the protection of human health and the environment.

"The visitors center strives to remain a valuable community asset that supports beneficial reuse of the site by providing educational programming and content," Office of Legacy Management (LM) Site Manager Brian Zimmerman said. "The visitors center helps connect the site's remediation history and ongoing long-term stewardship activities with the local community."

Along with more than 900 student interactions through site school-related activities last year, the visitors center staff also provided a host of activities and outreach programming to organizations and groups throughout the greater Cincinnati area and beyond. From scouts, senior groups, and history buffs to birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts, the visitors center features programming and events to meet the interests and needs of the community.



Informational display at an area outreach activity.

During the February 2025 Winter Bird Fest, the visitors center welcomed more than 700 participants over the weekend, with more than 1,400 visitors on-site throughout the week. Activities included owl pellet dissection demonstrations, bird banding, and birdwatching. Visitors logged sightings of more than 80 of the 260 species that make the Fernald Preserve a part of their habitat.

Throughout the year Fernald visitors can enjoy activities and events such as short-eared owl walks in the winter, ephemeral flower walks in the spring, flying squirrel spotting in March through May, and beaver spotting in the fall, as well as science-related activities all year long. The interpretive staff also host programs featuring the site history as well as programming that highlights the details of the CERCLA driver, the site remediation, and its impact on the area.

“Along with our on-site activities, we do a great deal of outreach and interaction within the community,” said Frances Boyens, LM Support Partner Fernald Preserve interpretive center manager. “Fernald plays an important role in the community — we are in the amazing position of not only teaching the theory of groundwater remediation, but we can take students to see the theory in action, showing real world application.”

The interpretive staff made more than 15,000 public contacts in 2024, including 2,500 for off-site programs during the year from career fairs, farmers markets, fairs, educator roundtables, historical groups, and conferences. More than 6,000 visitors spent time at the visitors center, including over 900 students attending educational programming.

Zimmerman emphasized the value of the visitors center in supporting the Fernald Preserve. “The visitors center is an invaluable resource and serves as an institutional control for the site. Our legacy management goals highlight



A happy student during a butterfly tagging event.

“

Along with our on-site activities, we do a great deal of outreach and interaction within the community.

—Frances Boyens

the importance of protecting human health and the environment, sharing information, and engaging the public and other stakeholders. The center is a key resource in helping us achieve those goals.”

In fall 2025, the visitors center will host the annual community meeting, giving the Fernald team an opportunity to share information regarding the Fernald Preserve site status, overviews of site activities throughout the year, and updates on the continued monitoring of the site remedy with the public. Along with the team’s educational and outreach activities and the various events hosted throughout the year, this community event brings stakeholders and community members together at the visitors center to get updates and ask questions.

**Visit the Fernald Preserve
Visitors Center website here:**
energy.gov/lm/fernal-preserve-visitors-center



Birdwatchers on an owl walk.





GOAL SIX



WELDON SPRING SITE
A Legacy of Service

Kids, Community, and More at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center

Back-to-school points to learning at all levels

Community outreach and education is a key foundation of the Office of Legacy Management's (LM) efforts at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center in St. Charles, Missouri. The original interpretive center, opened in 2002, grew from a partnership with the Weldon Spring Site Citizens Commission during the site's remediation to communicate the site's institutional controls; continue public involvement including educational outreach, public notices, meeting and classroom spaces, and community informational systems; and help maintain the Weldon Spring Site remedy.

Since the opening of the new Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center in 2022, that foundation has been epitomized by the community programming and outreach work at the center. The kickoff of the 2025 school year — educating school children, adults in the community, and even teachers — has led to full menu of learning programs and activities.

"I think it speaks volumes that the area communities asked for the interpretive center," said Weldon Spring Site LM Site Manager Rebecca Roberts. "It's become a valuable resource in educating the community, and it plays a vital role as an institutional control by supporting our efforts to protect human health and the environment and preserve the history and information of the Weldon Spring Site."

With several Missouri communities within an easy drive, the center offers a wealth of school outreach programming, field trips, and educational opportunities for students from kindergarten to high school, as well as area college students. From studying the plant and animal life of Howell Prairie and examining the properties of solids, liquids, and gasses to understanding the geology of the Weldon Spring Site and learning more about the site's atomic legacy, schools and youth groups have a large menu of learning opportunities. The center has also developed programming specialized for kids who are homeschooled. Known

Interpretive Specialist Lia Bartnicki discusses the site remediation during a school visit.

Visitors at the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center view the exhibits.



Visitors take the opportunity to get dirty with an event volunteer.

as Homeschool Days, this monthly series offers field trip options and organized events for kids coming from their own homes instead of area schools.

The site recently partnered with the Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA) to host a Project WILD and Project WET educator workshop on July 8. Project WILD and Project WET curriculum books provide formal and informal educators with resources for environmental education as it relates to wildlife and water conservation.

Interpretive Center Manager Jamie Hubert, a certified trainer, cotaught the class with the MEEA codirector for more than 20 teachers and informal educators from across Missouri. The activities in each book are cross-curricular and aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core Standards (CCS).

The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center maintains a busy pace and a steady stream of planned activities throughout the year. From June 2024 through July 2025,

Interpretive Specialist Luke Scott works with some younger visitors at a craft station during the 2025 Garden Expo.



the interpretive center received more than 15,000 visitors, including more than 9,000 students and public program attendees. In the spring, the 2025 Garden Expo connected community flower lovers and plant enthusiasts with local vendors and artisans as well as showcasing the flora on display at the site. In the fall, visitors can attend the Pollinator Palooza event, formerly Monarch Madness, which inspires the public to support pollinator habitats and builds environmental awareness.

“

I think it speaks volumes that the area communities asked for the interpretive center.

—Rebecca Roberts

“Educating students and members of the community where we live and work plays an important role in connecting them to our history,” Roberts said. “It also helps shape their perceptions about the transformation of the Weldon Spring Site and the valuable work we do here protecting the health and environment of the local communities.”

You can learn more about the Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center here:
energy.gov/lm/weldon-spring-site-interpretive-center





Outreach on Tribal Lands Takes Many Forms

Open communication builds relationships and trust

LM Site Manager Bill Frazier, right, talks with a Hopi community member about the Tuba City, Arizona, Disposal Site during a community meeting.

KNOCK KNOCK.

"Who's there?"

"It's public affairs."

This is not so far from a typical encounter when Office of Legacy Management (LM) and LM Support Partner (LMSP) staff perform outreach on Tribal lands. LM holds cooperative agreements and works closely with several Native American Tribes and Alaska Natives on long-term monitoring and surveillance at sites. These partnerships include collaboration with on-site inspections, environmental monitoring, document review, natural resource management, and outreach.

Outreach in Tribal communities is integrated into most of LM's routine and nonroutine projects, often occurring long before the project starts. Much of the success of LM's work on Tribal nations is built upon long-standing relationships, some of which have taken years to develop. Staff for some sites meet routinely with Tribal partners online and in the field for site work.

The outreach performed within the Tribal communities can take many forms. It might be a simple phone call or email notification to someone in a site-specific database. Or the outreach could include paid advertising, community meetings, and door-to-door notifications.

In-person door-to-door visits and community meetings can be the most beneficial types of outreach activities. They foster a conversation between LM and interested residents regarding a former processing site's continued maintenance and current projects. The personal interaction creates a platform for understanding and promotes trust.

“

STEM within our Tribal nations is a highlight and well regarded as some of our most important work.

—Shawn Montgomery

To that end, senior LM staff traveled to Wyoming in June to meet with members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and update the community on LM's work in Riverton. LM is upgrading existing infrastructure of the town's alternate water supply system to ensure a safe, reliable source of water for the Tribe.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) events are another important component of outreach on

Tribal lands. They create unique opportunities to share the different facets of LM's work through educational hands-on demonstrations designed to pique the interest of students who may be interested in pursuing STEM careers.

According to a Bureau of Indian Affairs study, the national Native American/Alaskan Native high school graduation rate is 69%, far below the national average of 81%. Kids growing up on Tribal nations can face many barriers preventing them from pursuing higher education. STEM events help initiate an exchange about the student's interest and encourages students to pursue additional education or training past high school.

STEM events provide LM and LMSP an opportunity for some of their most meaningful interactions with Tribal students, said STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery.

"STEM within our Tribal nations is a highlight and well regarded as some of our most important work," Montgomery said. "It is a treat for both our federal and contracting staff."

LM began attending the Cherokee Nation STEM Fest in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to create a community presence and network prior to LM obtaining the Sequoyah Disposal Site, which is scheduled for transition to LM in 2029.

Another partnership built through STEM is with the Pueblo of Acoma Tribe's Haak'u Community Academy after-school program. LM gave Groundwater and Acids and Bases demonstrations and led Pool Noodle Rocket and Newton's Balloons activities. For Pueblo of Acoma, the Bluewater Disposal Site in New Mexico is at peak interest because of groundwater monitoring taking place there.

The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska (QTU) is participating in oversight roles on LM's activities at its site on Amchitka Island in Alaska. QTU invited LM to participate in Camp Qungaayuḡ in late July 2024, where LM provided educational lessons each day on topics such as soil erosion and contaminants in groundwater while incorporating real examples within the local community.

LM also works closely with the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG), part of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Comprising state officials and Native American Tribes, STGWG engages directly with the U.S. Department of Energy on issues related to the cleanup of sites within the nuclear weapons complex. STGWG representatives provide recommendations to ensure that operation and cleanup activities follow all federal and state laws and regulations and Tribal rights, including those retained by treaty.

You can learn more about Tribal collaboration here:
energy.gov/lm/tribal-collaboration



LMSP Public Affairs Tribal Specialist Shine Salt, center, and STEM with LM Program Manager Shawn Montgomery, back, demonstrate acids and bases at the Cherokee Nation STEM Fest.



LM Site Manager Stephen Pitton assists with a STEM activity at Kusilvak Career Academy.



Down to a Science:

LM Team Leans on Experience at Water Festival

Students learn how monitoring helps safeguard water quality in the Colorado River

On a bright and mild spring morning, Office of Legacy Management (LM) Support Partners were busy getting ready for a rush of fifth graders at the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival in Grand Junction.

Environmental Monitoring Operations Manager Sam Campbell was hauling the gear he'd use to demonstrate to students how LM monitors the chemistry of Colorado River water. Interpretive Specialists Ashton Andrade and Justin St. John were setting up their table, a poster of the periodic table of elements, and a shelter to shield everyone from the intense Colorado sunshine.

Everything was ready to go as the kids started filing in. Andrade and St. John told them about the history of the Climax uranium mill that used to operate a few hundred yards from where they were standing — now known as Las Colonias Park — and the history of uranium mining in the area. Then, Campbell got the students involved in the monitoring demonstration, showing the kids how he gauges the water's clarity, electrical conductivity, temperature, and pH value.

A steady breeze kept the heat at bay on this morning and carried with it the sweet scent of trees blooming along the riverbank.



Legacy Management Support Partners lead a group of fifth graders through a historical presentation and a water sampling demonstration at the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Campbell, Andrade, and St. John were familiar with the drill. This year, Environmental Scientist Gretchen Baer stepped in for Campbell on the second day of the two-day festival. Baer demonstrated LM's field-testing techniques and can now call herself a water festival veteran.

"I was impressed by the great questions from the students and teachers," Baer said. "I hope I get to help out again next year."

At the 2024 festival, LM Site Manager Sara Woods introduced an egg-toss style game for the kids to help them learn the names of the six elements LM monitors in the Colorado River. The game was a hit and the team brought it back this year.

They inscribed reusable water balloons with the chemical symbols for iron, magnesium, sodium, calcium, selenium, and uranium. The students divided into two teams facing each other. At the beginning of the round, the student holding a balloon shouted out the name of the element on their balloon, then tossed it to their teammate several yards away.

If the balloon was dropped or popped — the usual outcome — the round was over for that team. If the balloon was caught, the teammates stepped back a few feet, then tossed the balloon again, back and forth until it popped or dropped. The end result was always the same: Everyone got soaking wet. After all, isn't that the point of a water festival?

"Each year, I wonder how it can get better, but it always blows me away to see all of the great organizations and businesses participating to educate and engage students," Andrade said. "Our presentation is pretty solid by this point, but the highlight is always getting to see students engage, ask questions, and of course, have fun."

Andrade's first experience at the water festival was as a fifth grader in Grand Junction. Ditto for St. John, who was now working his second festival on behalf of the LM team.

"What struck me this go-round was just how impressive this event has become. I'm not sure there is anything else like it in the valley that brings together students from the entire district with such a focus on a critical topic in such a fun and engaging way," he said.

This was Campbell's fourth consecutive year at the festival. He's always happy to help support Woods, who also participated as a student and who now leads LM's "Go With The Flow" presentation at the festival that is billed as the largest celebration of water in Colorado.

As a four-year veteran, Campbell said he's stepped back from a narrow focus on water sampling and now sees the proverbial big picture.

"The kids want to know — why are we doing this?" he said. "I think we have answered the 'why' question by going through the timeline: we needed uranium; there was a former uranium mill on-site to process uranium ore to extract the uranium; the milling process contaminated the soil and groundwater; we cleaned up the soil, but groundwater contamination remains, so we need to keep our eye on the groundwater; we monitor the groundwater by collecting samples and analyzing them in a laboratory."

“

It is important for LM to be visible to the community and engage on all levels.

—Sara Woods

Woods was unable to join the team this year, but she knows the message is in good hands with the support staff. The festival made a lasting impression on her as a child, and she was thrilled to be a driving force for LM's participation.

"It is important for LM to be visible to the community and engage on all levels," she said, "especially with our future generations, to explain the importance of LM's mission to protect human health and the environment, as well as continue to tell the story of the history of sites such as Las Colonias."

Woods wants to keep the site's history alive and encourage each student to acknowledge the past to help shape the future. In the past couple of years, she has recalibrated her message to ensure that the students know about the opportunities they have to make a difference in their community, whether it be by pursuing a career in history or science, engineering or art.

"It is all necessary to help shape our future," she said. "And let's be honest, recalibrating by adding in the periodic table water balloon toss didn't hurt either!"

Take it from the voice of experience.



GOAL ONE

LM and USACE: Strengthening Interagency Collaboration and Innovation

*Agreement on Specialized
Radiological Services blueprint for
effective government alliances*



In 2022, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) came together in a powerful collaboration to strengthen the nation's ability to manage government legacy radiological hazards. The resulting Agreement for Specialized Radiological Services showcases the potential of forward-thinking federal partnerships to drive innovation, boost operational excellence, and protect public health and safety.

This agreement is not just a formal handshake; it has paved the way for strategic interagency collaboration. Under this agreement, all USACE centers of expertise, districts, and divisions were empowered with direct access to the world-class resources and innovative capabilities offered by DOE's national laboratories and directorates. This provided USACE new opportunities on their projects to enhance their mission success. Spanning across the country, these 17 federally funded institutions create a robust network focused on strengthening the nation's scientific and technological future.



We are thrilled to see the breadth of successful undertakings stemming from this agreement and are excited about the opportunities it will continue to create moving forward.

—Ken Kreie

The results of this collaboration are already tangible. For instance, the USACE St. Louis and Buffalo districts capitalized on the agreement by engaging expert teams from the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL). SRNL conducted independent technical reviews of processes including critical data collection, analysis, and design documents, ensuring a high standard of integrity and reliability in project deliverables. One standout project resulting from the collaboration with SRNL is a Value Engineering Evaluation for the phased design of the Interim Waste Containment Structure remediation at the Niagara Falls Storage Site, which will address some of the nation's oldest and most complex legacy waste. SRNL provided expertise and lessons learned from the challenging cleanup work DOE's Office of Environmental Management is doing at the Hanford and Savannah River sites.

Moreover, the USACE Philadelphia District leveraged partnerships with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

A drone uses advanced technology to survey for radiation levels within a deep-sheeted excavation.

Through this collaboration, the labs conducted groundbreaking research to identify and manage hazardous chemical vapors using the latest techniques. Their endeavors also included the development of advanced methods to quickly and accurately quantify in situ radioactive contaminants. Progress on both fronts has had direct, positive implications for worker health and safety and the overall project timeline. Furthermore, methodologies developed under this collaboration are being deployed and furthering DOE capabilities across multiple program offices.

"This agreement has showcased how interagency collaboration can lead to efficient, effective, and impactful outcomes," remarked Ken Kreie, FUSRAP program manager for LM. Kreie emphasized the essential facilitator role LM played in this collaboration, coordinating the relationship between USACE and national laboratory experts.

This agreement is not simply procedural; it cultivates a shared mission among teams from different federal agencies who are dedicated to executing their programs to build a safer, more resilient future for the nation.



Members of USACE, the Ramboll Group, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory prepare drone-mounted radiological screening equipment at the Deepwater, New Jersey, Site.

Although the agreement expires in 2027, its impact will endure beyond its conclusion. As the partnerships have grown, USACE is now poised to initiate direct contracting mechanisms with select national labs, further strengthening their operational and technical momentum. More importantly, the relationships developed during this collaboration will continue to drive future successes. USACE and the DOE national laboratory network are better positioned to sustain technical collaboration in radiological cleanup, even as LM transitions out of direct contractual roles. LM will remain invested in the continued success of this productive interagency effort and looks forward to watching its progress unfold.

"We are thrilled to see the breadth of successful undertakings stemming from this agreement and are excited about the opportunities it will continue to create moving forward," Kreie said, embodying the enthusiasm and potential that this partnership has ignited across agencies.

The Agreement for Specialized Radiological Services represents a blueprint for effective collaboration in government. By harnessing the power of strategic alliances, this initiative has helped drive meaningful progress in public safety and environmental stewardship. As USACE and DOE continue to work together, the influence of their collaboration will resonate for years to come, setting a meaningful example for future interagency cooperation and innovation.



Members of USACE, the Ramboll Group, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory calibrate equipment before testing at the Deepwater, New Jersey, Site.



LM Welcomes Two Mentorship for Environmental Scholars Interns

Program is partnership between DOE and Pre-College University in Virginia

Office of Legacy Management (LM) Director of Site Operations Jay Glascock met with students from the 2025 class of the Mentorship for Environmental Scholars (MES) program at the group's "boot camp" in late May in Washington, D.C.

Glascock welcomed the two students who worked with LM this summer during their internship. Mikayla Bia, a student at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, and JaMyiah Clark, a student at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, joined LM as part of their summer studies.

In partnership with the U.S Department of Energy (DOE), Pre-College University (PCU) in Woodbridge, Virginia, provides each intern with a mentor who facilitates the student's future educational and career endeavors. PCU's goal is to increase the number of individuals from minority-serving institutions who are knowledgeable, capable, and qualified to fill permanent employment positions within DOE.

Working with MES interns has been a great experience because it allows PCU to provide our services to make sure that the college students are adequately prepared for the experience they are about to undertake.

—Clarence Brown

LM Physical Scientist and Site Manager Angelita Denny provides program oversight, and for more than eight years she has mentored the students on LM's behalf. She meets with the students regularly to check in and hear about their progress. Denny has retooled the program to match each student with an LM or LM Support Partner (LMSP) professional in their discipline.

This guarantees that the MES interns have hands-on, real-world experience alongside a subject matter expert mentor.

"This internship gives the students an opportunity to understand the science behind what LM does and to experience a high-quality internship that will help propel them as they prepare to graduate and enter the workforce," Denny said.

This summer, Bia worked with the LMSP Ecology team. Clark worked with the LMSP Environmental Sciences team.

As a part of its collaboration with DOE, PCU recruits qualified individuals from the targeted colleges and universities who study in disciplines that comprise DOE's program and functional areas. Once the applicants are vetted, interviewed, and approved by the DOE program manager, they are sent out to the DOE labs and offices for placement.

Post-placement, PCU begins four months of pre-internship preparation. This preparation includes professional development, monthly virtual meetings during which interns become familiar with program logistics, and expert guidance to help with their personal and professional pursuits.

In addition to the virtual sessions, PCU hosts a three-day orientation boot camp in northern Virginia, where DOE leadership is invited to meet and interact with the incoming interns. The main focus of this orientation is training in areas that lead to a productive internship experience at the DOE lab or office.

Some of the topics covered are networking, professional ethics, and basic project management. Each intern receives their summer assignment prior to the boot camp and is asked to, as a culminating project, present on their project and its connection to the DOE lab or office and DOE as a whole. They are also encouraged to do a gap analysis to determine what they need to work on in the short term to ensure they can exceed DOE expectations during their internship.

Once the intern leaves the boot camp, PCU works with the DOE lab or office points of contact to make sure the internship and the interns are progressing satisfactorily. At

the conclusion of the internship, the DOE intern mentors are provided with an intern evaluation form to assess the intern's performance.

PCU uses the forms in post-internship interviews, in which interns are given feedback on their performance and areas for potential growth. Before the start of the new recruitment season, PCU and the DOE labs and offices hold closeout meetings to discuss the partnership experiences and any lessons learned.

Additionally, PCU works with the labs to determine the disciplines that are likely candidates for upcoming internship opportunities. PCU uses this information to inform its recruitment strategy.

"Working with MES interns has been a great experience because it allows PCU to provide our services to make sure that the college students are adequately prepared for the experience they are about to undertake," said PCU Executive Director Clarence Brown. "Working with a wide variety of students helps PCU to develop and tailor its offerings to meet the employment demands of DOE and thereby better serve the MES internship program."

Since PCU received the MES award in 2015, the university has gradually raised the stipend for interns from \$3,500 to \$7,000 per student, which is on par with many of the national internship programs.

"This allows us to attract and retain higher caliber students into the program," Brown said. "For the 2025 program we have a total of nine returning interns, eight of which are expanding their horizons by visiting a second lab or in the other case, a third lab. This goes a long way toward building the pipeline to employment within DOE."

PCU's efforts to develop the future workforce begin well before students get to college, Brown said. The university's community outreach program works in various communities to engage middle and high school students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The program, which comprises weeklong camps, introduces students to the concept of environmental science and its function within DOE and Legacy Management. Campers explore various DOE-focused disciplines and are encouraged to begin looking to DOE as a potential place of employment in the future. The camp focuses on solar energy and testing soil, water, and air.

"These are all areas that tie closely to the work that the MES interns are doing during their summer internship experiences," Brown said.



JaMyiah Clark

North Carolina A&T
State University



Mikayla Bia

Diné College



GOAL TWO

LM Staff Meets With Wyoming Regulators on UMTRCA Sites

Discussion centers on improving processes for site transitions in the near future

LM Director Carmelo Melendez, accompanied by LM and LM Support Partner staff, meets with Northern Arapaho Tribal members on a site visit to Riverton, Wyoming, in June.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Legacy Management (LM) staff recently met with state officials for status updates on two sites LM manages in Wyoming and three sites that will eventually be transferred to LM for long-term surveillance and maintenance.

LM Director Carmelo Melendez met with representatives of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) for updates on LM's disposal site in Split Rock and the former processing site in Riverton. The group also discussed the eventual transition of the Gas Hills West, Gas Hills North, and Gas Hills East Disposal Sites in addition to several other sites that will transition to LM stewardship in the coming decade.

The sites are managed under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA).

In Riverton, LM is upgrading existing fire hydrants, valves, and pipelines on a domestic water supply system. The water system upgrade project is to ensure the continuation of a safe and reliable water supply for users of the Northern Arapaho Water and Sewer Department.

On the trip, LM staff formally consulted with the Northern Arapaho Tribe in Riverton. LM Site Manager Stephen Pitton presented on the history of the former processing site and the reasons for upgrades to the Northern Arapaho alternate water supply system before taking the team on a tour of the construction activities.

"While on the tour, it was important to highlight the longstanding relationship and support between DOE and the Tribe," Pitton said. "LM also met with Wyoming state regulators regarding site management and emerging issues at the other eight current or future DOE UMTRCA sites."

Discussion topics ranged from regulatory compliance, restoration of remedies, and gas and oil leases, among other issues. During the tour, LM emphasized that at project completion, the alternate water supply system will be turned over to the Tribe to continue operations and maintenance responsibilities.

Melendez and Pitton were accompanied by Jay Glascock, director of LM's Office of Site Operations; and Nicole Olin, program manager for LM's UMTRCA Title II sites.



In Riverton, LM is upgrading existing fire hydrants and valves as well as portions of a domestic water supply pipeline.

WDEQ is responsible for enforcing state and federal environmental laws in Wyoming. As part of the discussions, the parties agreed that LM will work with WDEQ to improve coordination on changes to transition dates for incoming sites. LM's priority is to ensure funding and resources are in alignment with planned transition dates to support its processes.

The two agencies also discussed the benefits of a records exchange. WDEQ has a records index that can be shared with LM to help both parties ensure that relevant records are shared.



LM's Continued Commitment to the Environment

Honored with 11th EPEAT Purchaser Award

Award highlights the environmental impact of responsible electronics procurement







The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management (LM) is honored to have received the EPEAT Purchaser Award for the 11th consecutive year. This award highlights sustained leadership in environmentally responsible purchasing, which in turn protects human health and the environment and manages and optimizes asset use.

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Purchaser Award, given by the Global Electronics Council, recognizes organizations who consistently purchase electronics rated under the internationally recognized EPEAT ecolabel, which evaluates products based on criteria like materials, energy efficiency, carbon emissions, and end-of-life manageability.

In 2025 alone, EPEAT-awarded purchases collectively:

- **Prevented 1.2 million metric tons of CO2** — the equivalent of removing 250,000 passenger cars from roads for a year.
- **Conserved 1,300 GWh of energy** — comparable to annual electricity consumption of 107,000 average U.S. households.
- **Saved 45 billion liters** (approximately 12 billion gallons) of water — enough to fill 983 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

By choosing EPEAT-qualified products, LM contributes to these outcomes, which are directly aligned with our mission of protecting human health and the environment. LM purchases products in these EPEAT categories:

-  **Computers and displays.**
-  **Imaging equipment.**
-  **Mobile phones.**
-  **Photovoltaic modules and inverters.**
-  **Televisions.**
-  **Servers.**

Looking ahead, LM is committed to:

- **Maintaining its award-winning procurement practices.**
- **Prioritizing products with verified supply-chain emissions transparency.**
- **Applying quantified environmental metrics to future sourcing decisions.**

LM is proud to sustain more than 10 years of environmentally responsible purchasing and remains committed to strategic procurement to benefit the planet.



Mary Young

Named LM Employee of the Year

*Manager of LM's site in Rifle, Colorado,
wins Philip C. Leahy Award*

To those who know her best, Mary Young fully embodies the qualities of a team player.

The terms her teammates use to describe her: Mission-conscious. Tenacious. Committed. Enthusiastic. Disciplined.

With so many accolades coming from her peers, it's easy to understand why she was named the Office of Legacy Management (LM) 2025 Employee of the Year and a Philip C. Leahy Award winner.

But because of her humble nature, Young said she never thought she'd receive such an honor.

"Honestly, I was shocked when they called my name," she said, "because there are so many top performers and team players that were also nominated, and any of my other peers would deserve this distinguished honor."

The Leahy award, which was established in 2017, recognizes LM employees who demonstrate the qualities of an outstanding team player as described by John C. Maxwell's *The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player*. According to Maxwell, a few of the qualities that define a team player are dependable, enthusiastic, prepared, self-improving, and tenacious.

Young manages multiple sites for LM under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) regulatory driver. She's the site manager for LM's disposal cell in Rifle, Colorado, and for the past year, she has been part of the integrated project team (IPT) for a major pore-water extraction project at the site.

Young's commitment to her teams went well beyond the site, project, and program duties assigned to her, according to the nomination letter written by her colleagues.

"She quickly volunteered her expertise and was the quintessential team player whose intangible qualities, like enthusiasm, attention to detail, and drive for the next new challenge were admired," the letter read. "She made every person she worked with, every team she was on, that much better. She brought her 'A' game every day and inspired those around her to do likewise."



Site Manager Mary Young was part of the integrated project team for a major pore-water extraction project at LM's disposal cell in Rifle, Colorado.



Her supervisor, Wil Burns, approved Young's nomination for the Philip C. Leahy Award.

"Mary's exceptional management of the Rifle pore water extraction project is a testament to her technical expertise and leadership," Burns said. "She successfully delivered a complex, high-priority project under a compressed timeline while overseeing every phase with precision and care."

LM's Paul Kerl, office manager for the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, nominated Young for the award.

"While the spotlight was on her as part of the awards ceremony, she made it clear she's extremely grateful for the full support of her exceptional team, demonstrating modesty and gratitude for the high-performing team she assisted in creating," Kerl said.

The team's mission at Rifle was to mitigate the infiltration of pore water at the disposal cell. Pore water accumulates in the small spaces in a confined area. At Rifle, the team found a way to reduce water accumulation and improve stability of the cell.

Young's teammates said that under her leadership, the project team successfully executed the project and achieved the water extraction technical performance parameter. Her collaborative efforts on the IPT mitigated the risks associated with high pore water levels, which would have otherwise saturated the cell's side slope and reduced structural integrity.

Young's IPT also compiled lessons learned and an overarching project video, which will further benefit LM's future major projects. In the end, her teamwork ensured the disposal cell remained protective of human health and the environment.

"To be honored this year in particular feels even more special because we've had to come together to support each other, not only to execute the mission, but also to take care of our LM family," Young said.

Mary Young | Site Manager

In her humble fashion, Young was quick to share credit with her teammates with LM and LM Support Partners (LMSP).

"Thank you to all my teammates for this amazing honor. It is a pleasure to work with everyone in LM and LMSP," she said. "I am a stronger employee, teammate, and person because of all of your support."

In addition to Young, Philip C. Leahy Awards were presented to the five other nominees for Employee of the Year. The winners, announced Wednesday, July 16, were:



Mary Young, Employee of the Year.



Tiffany Drake.



Michelle Franke.



Nicole Olin.



LaTerri Paulino.



Rebecca Roberts.



Senior Scientist Retires After 45 Years at DOE

Goodknight filled many roles in a federal career that began in 1980

Senior Environmental Scientist Lauren Goodknight has retired after more than 45 years with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Goodknight worked for the Office of Legacy Management (LM) Support Partner in Environmental Monitoring Operations and Sciences at the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Goodknight began her career in January 1980 and worked for nine different contractors to DOE in many roles, including site characterization, sampling, site lead assignments, report writing and production, technical editing, and records management.

In a career achievement award presented to her July 9 in Grand Junction, LM Director Carmelo Melendez mentioned Goodknight's outstanding leadership in the field of environmental sampling, analysis, and restoration under various regulatory frameworks.

"In recognition of your outstanding career and service to the nation and DOE, the Office of Legacy Management extends its heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions to our mission of environmental stewardship," Melendez wrote.

Lauren Goodknight and current LM Site Manager Bill Frazier discuss a site plan for a uranium mill tailings disposal cell in Crescent Junction, Utah. Photo taken at the LM Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, circa 2006.



Lauren Goodknight | Senior Environmental Scientist

She had been with LM since the program Office was established in 2003.

"The new mission was a big topic of conversation among employees and made the uncertainty of not having a job go away," Goodknight said. "For years there were rumors and constant worry that the facility was going to shut down."



Throughout her long career, Goodknight spent time working as a site lead, hydrologist, and ecologist before taking on her most recent role with the Environmental Monitoring Operations and Sciences group. She manages her team's schedule and prepares materials for each sampling trip. After each such trip, her team creates reports that are sent to her for editing and distribution.

Goodknight has also been the document coordinator for Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title I and Title II annual site inspection and monitoring reports.

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*If you make a mistake, own up to it.
Your head won't be cut off for a mistake.
Everyone makes them.*

—Lauren Goodknight

She'll still be on-call and helping her teammates when the need arises, such as when her replacement is out of the office. Although she has big plans and plenty of free time heading into retirement, there are parts of the job she'll miss.

"First, obviously, is the people," she said. "Some of the team became like family to me. After working closely for 40-plus years with the same group, you get to know them more than other employees."

Goodknight said she looks forward to doing more hiking, snowshoeing, and biking in beautiful western Colorado. She also plans to travel abroad to see more of the world, but most importantly, she plans to spend more time with friends and family, especially her twin great-grandchildren.

If she could go back in time and offer career counseling to her younger self, she knows what she'd say: Don't be afraid to speak up. For employees who are just beginning their careers and may feel intimidated, she advises practicing what you're going to say before you call to interact with a client, partner, or stakeholder. Above all, she said, don't pretend to know more than you do.

"If you don't know an answer, say so and tell them you'll get back with them or point them in the direction of the person who knows the answer," she said.

The most important bit of advice she'd give to a colleague, no matter how many years of experience they have or what role they play on the job, is to make personal integrity their highest priority.

"If you make a mistake, own up to it," she said. "Your head won't be cut off for a mistake. Everyone makes them."



Longtime Legacy Management Support Partner Lauren Goodknight thanks LM Field Support Center Office Manager Paul Kerl for a career achievement award he presented to her at a meeting in Grand Junction. "To be honored like this as a worker bee means a lot to me," Goodknight said.



LMSP Hydrogeologist Retires After Years of Committed Service

Legacy Management Support Partner Dan Sellers reflects on his time with the organization after more than 37 years

Legacy Management Support Partner (LMSP) Hydrogeologist Dan Sellers has retired after 37 years on the contract. Sellers was an important piece of the LMSP team, making numerous contributions to the Office of Legacy Management (LM) in various positions and working under seven different contractors.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force and graduating from Colorado Mesa University (formerly Mesa College) with a Bachelor of Science in geology, Sellers began working at the Grand Junction Department of Energy (GJ-DOE) site, now called the Legacy Management Field Support Center, in 1988.

"There were many job openings being offered at the GJ-DOE site after serving in the Air Force. These jobs were mainly in support of the Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation Act project, which included a lot of science-related jobs," Sellers said. "This was before LM was established in 2003, and it was great to be able to stay in my hometown."

During his tenure, Sellers contributed to several different teams and departments and worked as a senior health physics technician, environment regulation specialist (where he ensured all DOE projects were in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act), data management specialist, geologist, and environmental scientist before his final role as a hydrogeologist.

Sellers' current duties include working under the Environmental Monitoring Operations and Sciences group as the senior team lead for environmental monitoring of water, soil, and air. Sellers supervised, coordinated, and managed personnel in the field; calibrated specialized monitoring equipment; provided input to relative procedures for conducting environmental monitoring; and collected water transducer data to upload to LM's database. Sellers was also responsible for environment drilling, managing the Geoprobe direct push drill rig, and managing well completion and borehole data using Geotechnical Integrated (gINT) software.

“

I'm grateful for the people I've worked with. I've built and established lifelong friendships here.

—Dan Sellers

"My buddy, Gus" lends his moral support at the job site in Monticello, Utah. Dan met the friendly mule when he and his team were doing water sampling near the former uranium processing site in Monticello.



"I've really enjoyed my duties and all the achievements I was able to have here, which included finding the time to earn my master's degree in business management," Sellers said.

The gINT program is a geotechnical data management software used to visualize lithologic descriptions of soil and rock and the completion of a monitoring well in the boring and produce subsurface reports. It's been used for 25 years to collect and upload data and generate well-log graphic records for DOE and the public. Sellers is also proud of the work he's done guiding the use of the Geoprobe drill rig, drilling boreholes and installing monitoring water wells.

Sellers' most recent and noteworthy award was for his long-standing service with DOE and LM. Sellers was awarded the Career Achievement Award from LM Director Carmelo Melendez for his leadership in the field of environmental sampling and analysis and database management, as well as environmental monitoring and compliance.

In the award letter to Sellers, Melendez highlighted Sellers for his professionalism, unequivocal commitment, expertise, and passion for inspiring, supporting, and developing others.

"Dan always found creative, problem-solving, and adventuresome solutions to his work," said LMSP Environmental Monitoring, Operations, and Sciences Manager Sam Campbell. "His many adventures and stories from his extensive field work have entertained his coworkers and brought a special kind of joy to the job. His decades of service here at the Grand Junction office are a testament to his dedication and perseverance. He will be missed."

Sellers' passion and hard work was noticed not only by his colleagues but also by his own daughter, who was inspired to not only get involved in science, but also work for LM as both a contractor and now as a member of its federal staff.

Sellers' daughter, LM Site Manager Sara Woods, currently handles the responsibility of LM's sites in Grand Junction, Colorado.

"During the summers of my childhood, as far back as I can remember, my mom would bring my brothers and me to the south gate of what we knew as the 'compound' where Dad worked. She would enter the security vestibule, pick up the phone, and call my dad to come out to meet us for lunch. Never did I imagine that I would one day have a badge to enter the compound and be able to eat lunch with my dad inside," Woods said.

Sampling trip near the site in Monticello on a wintry day. Gus decided to sit this one out.



LM Site Manager Sara Woods and her father, LMSP Hydrogeologist Dan Sellers, celebrate a safety milestone at LM's Field Support Center in Grand Junction, Colorado.

"Science was always my interest, and my childhood dream was to become a doctor. Funny how life turns out. I received a call from my dad during my junior year of college telling me about an internship opportunity. He still tells me today that he never thought I'd apply, but I did," Woods said.

"I have been blessed to work alongside my dad for 17 of his 37 years of service to DOE. He is one of the hardest working people I know, but always remembers to enjoy the ride and laugh at himself along the way. The hallways of the compound won't be the same without him," Woods added.

Despite his achievements and all the hard work he's done, Sellers' favorite thing about LM is the people he's met and relationships he's built, both personally and professionally.

"I'm grateful for the people I've worked with. I've built and established lifelong friendships here," Sellers said.

As for the future, Sellers is looking forward to finishing up some projects and spending time with friends and family.

"I really love skiing, fishing, and spending time on the river with my boat. I'm also looking forward to spending more quality time with my children, wife, and grandchildren."



LM Visits Pennsylvania High School

Drake discusses Canonsburg site with local students

On May 22, Office of Legacy Management (LM) Site Manager Tiffany Drake visited Canon-McMillian Senior High School to provide an overview presentation of the Canonsburg site in Pennsylvania to students and faculty. Students had read the book *Radium Girls* and learned about the uranium tailings disposal cell in their community. A teacher at the school reached out to LM and asked if anyone was available to speak to the students about the Canonsburg site, its history, and what role LM plays in the site's long-term stewardship. Approximately 40 students attended the talk, as well as a number of teachers. The teaching staff expressed their appreciation after the presentation and asked if a similar talk could be held next year.

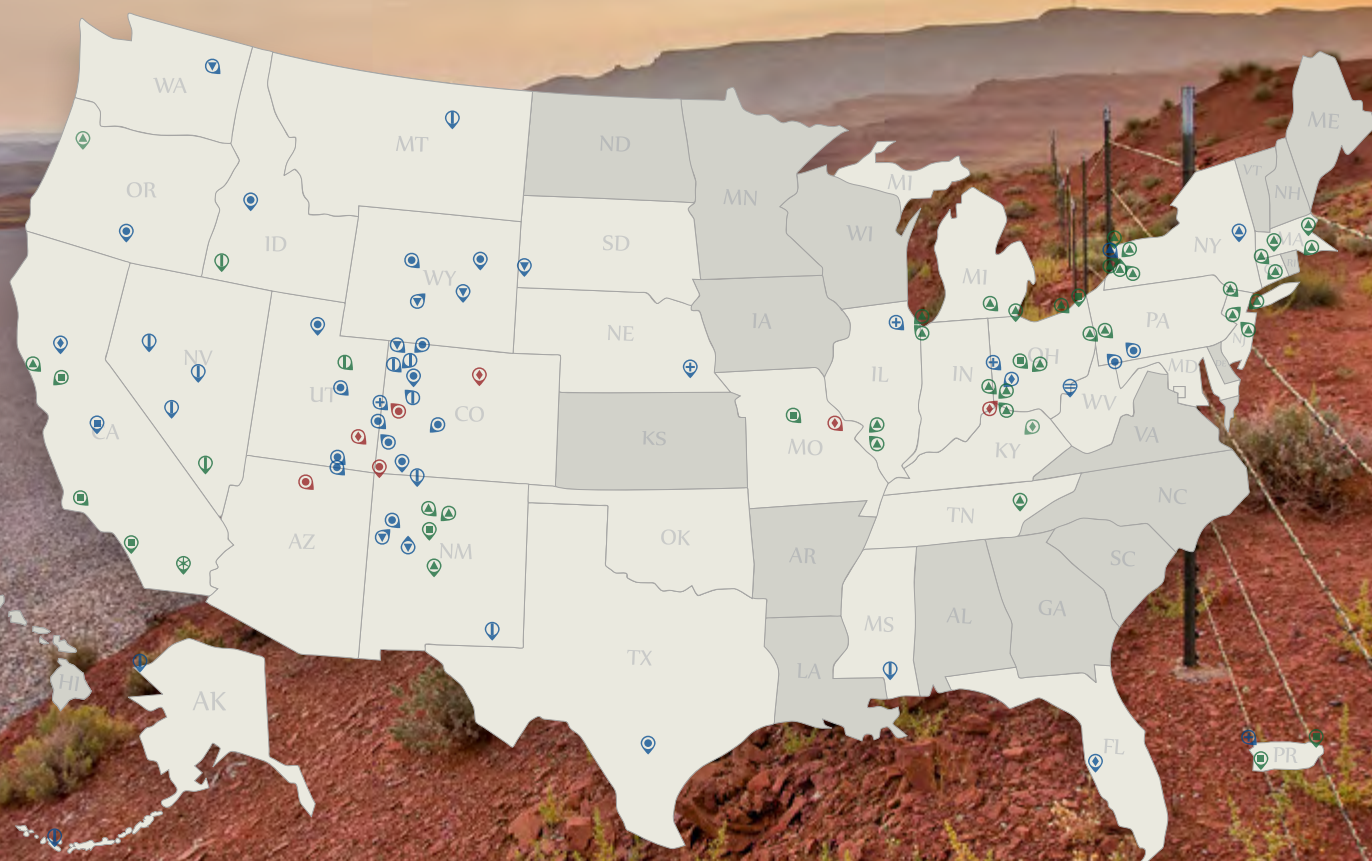
LM Site Manager Tiffany Drake
speaks to Canon-McMillian
Senior High School students,
May 22, 2025.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO Learn More



You can get valuable information about the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management on our website.

www.energy.gov/lm



Also, be sure to follow us on our social media platforms — Facebook and LinkedIn — to keep up with events and news related to our mission.



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