

Written Statement of William (Ike) White
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Science
Before the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Energy and Water Development
Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
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Chairman Kaptur, Ranking Member Simpson and Members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to appear before you today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request ("Budget Request" or "Request") for the Department of Energy's ("the Department" or "DOE") Office of Environmental Management ("EM").

The mission of the EM program is to clean up the nuclear weapons development and research sites that contributed greatly to domestic security and prosperity. The Department has a statutory responsibility to complete this mission, which also assists DOE in its vital ongoing national security and energy missions.

Throughout the 30-year history of EM, the Department has realized a number of significant accomplishments that have reduced environmental risks and liabilities. Many sites have been cleaned up and closed, transitioning from waste sites to wildlife refuges, wetland preserves, and job-creating economic development hubs.

Step-Change in Tank Waste Treatment

In total, the budget request includes \$6.07 billion for EM to address its responsibilities for the cleanup and disposition of tank waste, contaminated soil and groundwater, transuranic and other solid wastes, and the management of spent nuclear fuel and special nuclear materials. The request provides the resources necessary to build upon recent site achievements and enable impactful cleanup progress now and into the future.

A key focus of the request is providing the resources necessary to continue tangible and sustained progress in tackling one of EM's largest challenges and risks — tank waste. This calendar year marks a pivot point for sites across the DOE cleanup program, as EM is on the verge of completing and operating new capabilities to treat tank waste. Collectively, they represent a fundamental shift for the EM program from completing these long-running construction projects to a solid commencement of tank waste treatment operations. The request will provide the resources necessary to finish and utilize these new capabilities.

A key example of this is the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF) at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, which EM is on track to start up by this summer. The SWPF is the last major component of the Savannah River tank waste cleanup system. After decades of preparation, this transition will culminate in a ramp up to 24-7 operations of this game-changing facility in Fiscal Year 2021 – enabling EM to finish the tank waste mission in 10-15 years.

In total, the request would provide \$1.7 billion for cleanup activities at the Savannah River Site. Along with enabling the ramp up of tank waste treatment operations, the request would support continued activities to downblend and package plutonium for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), maintain safe and secure storage for other special nuclear materials, and remediate contaminated soils and groundwater. In addition, the request supports the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative project to construct a new modern research and development facility for the Savannah River National Laboratory.

At the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the request would provide \$271 million. This will support the startup and operation of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) in early FY 21 (by the end of CY 2020). The IWTU will enable EM to treat the remaining tank waste at the INL. Along with IWTU operations, the request will support completion of buried waste exhumation activities, as well as continued progress in dispositioning remaining legacy transuranic waste and the ongoing management of spent nuclear fuel.

The request continues to prioritize the cleanup of the Hanford site in Washington State, with \$1.26 billion proposed for the Office of River Protection and \$654 million for the Richland Operations Office. In FY 21, EM will continue to focus on completing and commissioning the facilities and infrastructure necessary for the Direct Feed Low Activity Waste approach.

Continued Progress Across EM

In addition to prioritizing the tank waste mission, the request will enable continued progress across the entire EM complex. At the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) in Tennessee, the request of \$432 million will support cleanup initiatives that also benefit DOE's broader national security and scientific research missions. EM will complete demolition of the former Biology Complex at the Y-12 National Security Complex; and will continue progress in dispositioning the remaining stockpile of uranium-233 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Construction activities will continue at the critical Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12, along with shipments of transuranic waste to WIPP for disposal. The request will also support soil and groundwater remediation activities at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

The operation of WIPP in New Mexico is essential for the disposal of transuranic waste materials generated from atomic energy defense activities, aiding not only legacy cleanup activities but ongoing national security programs. The request of \$390 million will continue the safe emplacement of waste and support infrastructure modernization activities needed to ensure WIPP is equipped to meet the needs of the national transuranic waste disposal mission.

The request includes \$120 million for cleanup activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The request focuses on completing cleanup activities under the 2016 Consent Order with the State of New Mexico and will facilitate progress in a number of areas, including continued management of groundwater contamination and legacy waste operations.

2020 – An Inflection Point for EM Sites

The accomplishments EM is on track to realize with the resources the request provides will be based on the results EM will accomplish this calendar year. At Hanford, EM will complete construction of the facilities in the DFLAW system, and complete demolition of the Plutonium Finishing Plant. This facility was responsible for the production of two-thirds of the plutonium metal used in the U.S. nuclear stockpile.

EM is on track to complete core cleanup efforts at the ETTP by the end of the year. This will mark the first time in the country an entire uranium enrichment complex has been completely removed, which will provide significant risk reduction and environmental benefits.

In Ohio, demolition of Building X-326 will begin. This is the first of the massive former uranium enrichment process buildings at the Portsmouth Site. This represents a transition of EM efforts at Portsmouth from deactivation to demolition. At the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York State, EM will begin demolition of the last major facility there — the former Main Plant Process Building.

At several of the smaller EM sites, we will continue to make cleanup progress to minimize the overall footprint of the DOE cleanup program. EM will complete this year the last remaining cleanup project at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York State with the demolition of a former reactor stack. Also in New York, EM will complete the transfer of the successfully cleaned up Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) site to the Office of Naval Reactors. In Nevada, we will complete the transfer of the remediated Tonopah Test Range to the DOE Office of Legacy Management.

Strategic Initiatives

To further strengthen EM's ability to achieve continued success, EM is pursuing a set of strategic initiatives. These include strengthening project management and expanding the use of new contracting mechanisms to encourage innovation and reduce taxpayer risks. EM will continue to implement a science-based and risk-informed approach to cleanup. We will continue to maintain positive relationships with stakeholders to achieve many shared goals. In addition, we are working toward ensuring a strong pipeline of talent throughout the program for the future. With a safety record well ahead of other comparable industries, EM will advance these strategic initiatives while continuing to embrace a safety-first culture at every site.

Closing

The EM program is fortunate to have the strong support of the Energy Secretary and the broader DOE leadership team. Most important to our success, this year, next year and the years to come, is the talented and dedicated workforce across the entire EM program. They share the commitment of DOE and EM leadership to this vital mission.

As the Department continues to make progress in the year ahead, and as Congress works to complete a final budget for FY 2021, EM looks forward to working with you to drive cleanup toward completion in a safe and sustainable manner.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.

	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request
Carlsbad	403,599	390,066
ETEC	18,200	11,000
Idaho	446,300	270,954
Los Alamos	220,000	120,000
Lawrence Livermore	66,727	1,764
Lawrence Berkeley	31,000	0
Moab	45,000	47,653
Nevada	60,737	60,737
Oak Ridge	682,348	431,848
Richland	1,001,301	654,584
River Protection	1,616,000	1,257,681
Paducah	314,339	282,403
Portsmouth	493,427	491,306
Savannah River	1,629,924	1,702,870
SPRU	15,300	15,000
Sandia	2,652	4,860
West Valley	79,611	92,411
Other Sites	4,987	4,987
Program Direction	281,119	275,285
Mission Support Activities	14,179	12,979
Technology Development	25,000	25,000
Excess Facilities	10,000	0
Uranium Thorium Reimbursements	5,250	21,284
Subtotal, EM	7,467,000	6,174,672
Rescission of Prior Year	-	-109,000
Use of Prior Year Balance: 15-D-401 Containerized Sludge Removal (RL)	(11,800)	0
Total, EM	7,455,200	6,065,672