

## News from Around the Complex

*October 1 – October 31, 2008*

Available on-line at <http://www.fftfcleanupnews.org/news.htm>

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October 31, 2008

### **PNNL taking day without cyberspace, *Tri-City Herald***

RICHLAND -- There will be no cruising around the Internet or checking e-mail today at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Computer screens are going largely dark. It's a reminder to employees of the importance of maintaining computer security after some employees fell for a trick to download fake "malware," or malicious software, as part of an audit of the lab's cybersecurity. The national lab in Richland plans a computer stand-down today. Employees will spend much of the day in training sessions -- in which they will be allowed to use their computers -- and in meetings to learn how and why to protect the lab's computer systems from intruders.

[http://www.hanfordnews.com/news/2008/story/12359.html?mi\\_email=Tri-City%20Herald\\_Hanford+Stories](http://www.hanfordnews.com/news/2008/story/12359.html?mi_email=Tri-City%20Herald_Hanford+Stories)

October 30, 2008

### **Extra costs at vit plant covered by contingency, *Tri-City Herald***

More hours of engineering will be needed to solve technical issues at Hanford's vitrification plant, and the cost of materials has continued to rise. However, Bechtel National says those increases will be covered by the contingency built into the current estimated plant cost of \$12.2 billion and the estimated schedule calling for the start of operations in 2019.\*\*\*Increased fuel prices have added to the cost of materials, he said. In addition, worldwide there is high demand for steel, copper, and aluminum, which is driving up the cost of materials needed at the vitrification plant.

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/915/story/367015.html>

October 30, 2008

### **Matheson, Dew spar over foreign N-waste in congressional debate, *The Salt Lake Tribune***

Bill Dew doesn't oppose foreign low-level nuclear waste coming to Utah, something Rep. Jim Matheson, a Democrat, calls a "fundamental difference" between the two candidates in the 2nd Congressional District. In a debate Tuesday night on the KSL program "Conversation With the Candidates," Republican Dew said "the waste is so low-level that I have no problem with bringing and storing it here." He added that EnergySolutions plans to bring in 20,000 tons of Italian waste to be processed in Tennessee and then "recycle it and sell it to Japan." The company, however, has proposed to permanently dispose of up to 1,600 tons of the processed material in Utah.

[http://www.sltrib.com/undefined/ci\\_10852174](http://www.sltrib.com/undefined/ci_10852174)

October 29, 2008

### **Cold War era radioactive wastes leaving Nevada Test Site, *Las Vegas Sun***

Treating radioactive wastes lingering from the Cold War era when the United States experimented with nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site is in its final chapter, the National Nuclear Security Administration said today. Since completing 48 shipments involving 1,860 55-gallon drums of what's known as "transuranic," or TRU, wastes from the Test Site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, to the Waste

Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M. In November 2005, Nevada is preparing another 58 oversized boxes for disposal. Transuranic wastes contain man-made radioactive elements heavier than uranium, such as plutonium, so the "trans" refers to radioactive elements beyond uranium. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has been accepting most wastes containing plutonium from across the country, a legacy of the Cold War efforts in national laboratories. From the 1950s until the 1990s the labs and the Nevada Test Site were crucial players in the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/oct/29/cold-war-era-radioactive-wastes-leaving-nevada-tes/>

October 28, 2008

**Under the radar: Canada's, Mexico's radioactive waste comes into Utah,** *Salt Lake Tribune*

Federal regulators gave their blessing to low-level radioactive waste from Canada and Mexico that is now buried in Utah. But Utah never got the memo. Nor did the regional radioactive waste oversight organization Utah belongs to. That foreign waste could be imported into Utah without the knowledge of state and regional officials might seem hard to believe in such a highly regulated business as radioactive waste. But federal regulators saw no reason to keep Utah in the loop on such small shipments. Dane Finerfrock, director of Utah's Radiation Control Division, checked his files Monday and found no letters giving a heads-up about the imports, despite the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's stated policy of keeping "those affected" in the loop. There is no listing for such letters to Utah and the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-level Radioactive Waste on the NRC's online information service

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_10833088](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_10833088)

October 24, 2008

**Last of Hanford's K West fuel removed,** *Tri-City Herald*

Hanford workers have completed removing fuel and fuel scraps from the K West Basin, the Department of Energy notified the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board this week. DOE had committed to the board to have the fuel removed by the end of September and met that deadline, DOE said. The last of the radioactive fuel found in the K West Basins was loaded into canister overpacks, dried at the Cold Drying and Vacuuming Facility and transferred to the Canister Storage Building where other K Basin fuel is being stored. If more fuel or fuel scrap are uncovered during the removal of debris in the K West Basin, the same process could be used until late 2010, DOE said.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/363427.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/363427.html)

October 24, 2008

**Notice of Availability of Final Complex Transformation Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement,** *Federal Register Notice*

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a separately-organized agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), announces the availability of the Complex Transformation Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Complex Transformation SPEIS, DOE/EIS-0236-S4). The Complex Transformation SPEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives to continue transformation of the nuclear weapons complex to be smaller, and more responsive, efficient, and secure in order to meet national security requirements. It is a supplement to the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SSM PEIS, DOE/EIS-0236).

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008\\_register&docid=fr24oc08-57.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_register&docid=fr24oc08-57.pdf)

October 23, 2008

**Buildings deteriorating before demolition at K-25, *The Oak Ridger***

Even though a building may be targeted for demolition, it shouldn't be allowed to deteriorate to the point that it's a hazard when the time comes for its destruction. That's one part of a recommendation a federally appointed advisory board has made to the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program. The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board is a 20-member volunteer panel, composed of area residents, charged with monitoring the environmental management program and providing recommendations or advice on activities related to environmental cleanup of various areas on the department's Oak Ridge Reservation.

<http://www.oakridger.com/news/x1588587877/Buildings-deteriorating-before-demolition-at-K-25>

October 23, 2008

**Western states try to close foreign-waste loophole, *Deseret News***

Two regional groups that regulate storage or radioactive waste met Wednesday to discuss closing a loophole that could affect EnergySolutions Inc.'s proposal to store nuclear waste from Italy at a site in Tooele County. The eight-state Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management met in Portland, Ore., with the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, which has Tennessee as one of its six member states. The center of attention was a proposal by EnergySolutions to store nuclear waste from Italy at a site in Tooele County by routing it through Tennessee. Utah's governor-appointed Northwest Compact representative, Bill Sinclair, said his group's goal was to convince their colleagues from the Southeast Compact to close a loophole that could allow waste from other countries to be shipped into Utah.

<http://deseretnews.com/article/content/mobile/1,5620,705257326,00.html?printView=true>

October 18, 2008

**DOE: No Hanford waste to Idaho this winter, *Tri-City Herald***

The Department of Energy dropped plans Friday to send 1,000 drums of Hanford radioactive waste to Idaho for treatment this winter. "It's a tough time for people" and DOE wants to limit some of the stress on workers as the site shifts to new contractors, said Dave Brockman, manager of DOE's Hanford Richland Operations Office. Thursday, about 50 union employees at Hanford protested in front of the Federal Building and along George Washington Way in Richland, fearing that what they saw as "outsourcing" of Hanford work would cost them jobs. "These employees are important to us," said Brockman, who made the decision to call off the shipments to Idaho. "It's not worth putting people through turmoil."

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/353908.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/353908.html)

October 17, 2008

**Notice of Availability of Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, *Federal Register Notice***

The Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GNEP PEIS, DOE/EIS-0396). The Draft GNEP PEIS provides an analysis of the potential environmental consequences of the reasonable alternatives to support expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing

the risks associated with nuclear proliferation and reducing the impacts associated with spent nuclear fuel disposal (e.g., by reducing the volume, thermal output, and/or radiotoxicity of waste requiring geologic disposal). Based on the GNEP PEIS and other information, DOE could decide to support the demonstration and deployment of changes to the existing commercial nuclear fuel cycle in the United States.

Federal Register Notice:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008\\_register&docid=fr17oc08-67.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2008_register&docid=fr17oc08-67.pdf)

PEIS Available on DOE NEPA website:

<http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA//index.htm>

October 17, 2008

**Nuke fuel recycling plan finds backing: Federal agency endorses concept, but not method or reprocessing site, Greenville News (South Carolina)**

COLUMBIA -- A U.S. Department of Energy study supports the nation moving to a recycled commercial nuclear fuel system but does not choose a method or a site for the reprocessing. South Carolina's Savannah River Site, currently the location of a controversial program to convert weapons-grade plutonium into commercial nuclear reactor fuel, remains a focus of the government's recycling efforts, an environmental group said on Thursday. The 960-page study by the Department of Energy, which was posted recently on a government Web site, looked at various types of recycling methods as well as different types of nuclear power that would involve using fuel just once and then storing it in a geological repository. The study concluded that under any alternative fuel plan, the nation has insufficient designated storage under federal law for future spent nuclear fuel or radioactive waste. Recycling would save on storage needs for spent nuclear fuel, though it may require additional storage for some types of radioactive waste, the study found.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081017/NEWS01/810170331/1001/NEWS01>

October 17, 2008

**Kansas City Council approves plans for nuclear weapons parts plant, Kansas City Business Journal**

The Kansas City Council voted 11-1 Thursday to approve a development plan and blight declaration for the 186-acre site of a new \$500 million nuclear weapons parts plant proposed in south Kansas City. The proposal calls for the General Services Administration, landlord for the federal government, to select a private developer in January to build a 1.5 million-square-foot plant for the assembly of non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons on vacant ground at Missouri Highway 150 and Botts Road. The project would replace an aging 3.1 million-square-foot plant that Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies operates for the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Bannister Federal Complex.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2008/10/13/daily38.html>

October 14, 2008

**DOE Decision on SRS Wastes Awaited, Aiken Standard**

A U.S. Department of Energy decision on the Savannah River Site's liquid waste operations could come as early as the end of the month, new Washington Savannah River Co. President Steve Piccolo said Monday. WSRC and its parent company, URS Washington Division, transitioned the site's management operations to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions in early August. However, WSRC still has a 2,200-person workforce at SRS for the liquid waste operation.\*\*\*Currently, four tanks are on

schedule for closure by 2010, which Piccolo said is years ahead of the Federal Facilities Agreement. All four tanks are getting a final cleaning with separate chemical and mechanical processes. When he previously worked at the site five years ago, said Piccolo, acid (chemical) cleaning was not scheduled. However, new technology has now made such processes practical.

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/Local/1014-rotary-meeting>

October 13, 2008

**State says funds from nuke waste agreement have created 5,000 jobs in E. Idaho,** *Idaho Business Review*

The state reported it had completed distribution of \$30 million in federal funds to assist economic development in eastern Idaho Oct. 9, as part of a broad-ranging agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy, the state and the U.S. Navy over spent nuclear fuel stored at DOE's Idaho site. The Idaho Settlement Agreement, signed in 1995, was designed to resolve litigation over how radioactive waste would be stored in Idaho. The federal grant provision required DOE to provide \$30 million over a five-year period to assist companies and partnerships in the seven counties directly impacted by the agency's activities outside Pocatello.

<http://www.idahobusiness.net/archive.htm/2008/10/13/State-says-funds-from-nuke-waste-agreement-have-created-5000-jobs-in-E-Idaho>

October 11, 2008

**DOE plans conservative cleanup spending at Hanford,** *Tri-City Herald*

The Department of Energy plans to spend less money in coming months at its environmental cleanup sites including Hanford than was approved by Congress in a continuing budget resolution for spending through early March. DOE's goal is to be conservative and not overspend in the first five months of the year as the funding amount for the rest of the year still unclear. DOE will use the administration request for funding in fiscal 2009, which would cut annual spending on DOE cleanup nationwide from a little more than \$5.7 billion in the fiscal year 2008 budget to \$5.5 billion. The fiscal year started Oct. 1. At Hanford, the budget for cleanup under the DOE Hanford Richland Operations Office would drop from the \$886.5 million approved for fiscal 2008 to \$851.8 million under the administration's request for fiscal 2009. That's a decrease of \$34.7 million.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/346593.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/346593.html)

October 10, 2008

**Coalition sues government to force cleanup of KC nuke weapons production plant,** *The Kansas City Star*

A coalition of environmental and peace organizations has sued to force the federal government to clean up a nuclear weapons production plant in south Kansas City. The lawsuit filed in federal court in Washington this week asks that a cleanup plan be established for the Kansas City Plant before the federal government builds a new plant. The Kansas City Plant, which has operated on Bannister Road for nearly 50 years, has housed millions of tons of cancer-causing materials such as petroleum products, beryllium, radiation waste and PCBs over the years. Some of those pollutants from making the non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons have seeped from 40 to 50 feet in the ground in places, according to government reports.

<http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/8h34687.html>

October 9, 2008

**NNSA Approves Final Analysis of Plan To Transform and Downsize Nuclear Weapons Complex,** *NNSA Press Release*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The head of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that he has approved the final environmental analysis of his plan to transform the aging, Cold War-era nuclear weapons complex into a 21st century national security enterprise. The analysis contains NNSA's preference – or preferred alternative – for the future of the enterprise.\*\*\*The environmental analysis, or Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS), analyzed several different options for the future of the nuclear weapons complex. One of those options outlines D'Agostino's preference for transformation and would consolidate missions and facilities within the existing NNSA sites, known as distributed centers of excellence. While not eliminating any sites, NNSA would eliminate redundancies in missions, capabilities, and facilities, at all of them, eventually saving money in the future.

<http://nnsa.energy.gov/news/2175.htm>

October 8, 2008

**NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to its Waste Confidence Decision, NRC Press Release**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to its waste confidence findings, in particular whether the findings should continue to include a timeframe for the availability of a repository for high-level nuclear waste disposal. The proposed revisions, to be published and discussed in two separate notices tomorrow (Oct. 9) in the Federal Register, are intended to support the agency's reviews of license applications for new commercial power reactors by resolving appropriate issues generically in rulemaking. The waste confidence findings were first issued in 1984, subsequently revised in 1990, and reaffirmed in 1999. They state the Commission's confidence that a geologic repository would be available sometime in the first quarter of the 21st century and that spent nuclear fuel can be safely stored without significant environmental impacts for at least 30 years beyond the licensed operation of a reactor, including the term of a renewed license. These findings are codified in NRC regulations at 10 CFR 51.23(a).

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-185.html>

Federal Register Notice: Waste Confidence Decision Update

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-23381.htm>

Federal Register Notice: Consideration of Environmental Impacts of Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-23384.htm>

October 3, 2008

**DOE to build system to treat ground water plume at Hanford, Tri-City Herald**

HANFORD -- The Department of Energy is preparing to build Hanford's largest water treatment system to clean up one of Hanford's most problematic underground plumes of contaminated water. It has signed a record of decision with its regulators, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology, committing to the cleanup work, DOE announced Thursday. "Pulling this contaminated water out of the ground and treating it is critical to preventing contamination in Hanford's central plateau from traveling toward the Columbia River," Dave Brockman, manager of DOE's Hanford Richland Operations Office, said in a statement. Underneath most of the 200 West Area in central Hanford lies a 5-square-mile plume of ground water contaminated with carbon tetrachloride. Contamination from the chemical used as a solvent in plutonium processing facilities

has been measured in concentrations as high as 1,000 times the amount allowed in drinking water.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/338535.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/338535.html)

October 2, 2008

**INL officials plan next phase of cleanup**, *Times-News (Twin Falls, Idaho)*

Mercury, lead and other contaminants left from unsafe practices at the Idaho National Laboratory will not pose a threat to groundwater in the future, officials with the Idaho Cleanup Project said Tuesday. State and federal officials stopped in Twin Falls on Tuesday evening to take comments on their draft plan for handling any future contamination caused by injection wells, unlined evaporation pools and other obsolete practices, said Erik Simpson, community relations representative for the Idaho Cleanup Project. While the U.S. Department of Energy doesn't expect to find much more of the waste in question, the plan provides a blueprint for how to handle any future discoveries, officials said. Its drafting marks a change in the cleanup process - dropping the need for much more study and supplying an action plan that won't have to be hashed out every time waste is found.

[http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2008/10/02/news/local\\_state/145616.txt](http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2008/10/02/news/local_state/145616.txt)

October 1, 2008

**Four countries join GNEP, bringing total to 25**, *Platts Energy Services*

Four countries joined the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, or GNEP, October 1, bringing the membership to 25. Armenia, Estonia, Morocco and Oman signed GNEP's "statement of principles" at the second meeting of the executive committee of GNEP, hosted by the French government. Their signing signifies their intent to develop nuclear power as a long-term energy source. Armenia is the only country of the four that has a nuclear power plant, built in Soviet times. Representatives of the four countries said they hoped to get help developing the needed infrastructure as well as benefit from GNEP initiatives in the nuclear fuel cycle.

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7350518.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>