

## News from Around the Complex

January 1 – January 31, 2010

Available on-line at [www.fftfcleanup.org](http://www.fftfcleanup.org)

January 29, 2010

### **Obama administration: 'We're done with Yucca', *Las Vegas Sun***

Washington — Declaring “We’re done with Yucca Mountain,” the Obama administration today announced the formation of a 15-member panel to study nuclear waste disposal alternatives -- another critical step in killing the proposed waste dump in Nevada. The White House’s top energy adviser, Carol Browner, said Yucca Mountain is off the table as the new commission headed by Lee Hamilton and Brent Scowcroft begins a two-year process to study alternatives for handling the nation’s spent nuclear fuel. “The debate over Yucca Mountain is over as the president has made clear,” Browner said during a conference call announcing the commission. “We’re done with Yucca. We need to be looking at other alternatives.” Scowcroft, the former national security adviser to two presidents, said the commission will be “trying to look forward, not back.” “Nuclear waste storage at Yucca Mountain is not an option and the commission will be looking at better alternatives,” said Hamilton, the former congressman who also co-chaired the 9/11 Commission.

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/jan/29/obama-administration-were-done-yucca-mountain/>

DOE Press Release available at: <http://www.energy.gov/news/8584.htm>

Presidential memorandum available at:

[http://www.energy.gov/news/documents/2010nuclearfuture\\_memo.pdf](http://www.energy.gov/news/documents/2010nuclearfuture_memo.pdf)

January 28, 2010

### **Deadline pressure at Hanford to remove radioactive waste, *SEATTLEPI.COM***

Hanford will have to pump highly radioactive wastes out of underground tanks much faster than it has ever done to meet a proposed new cleanup deadline. That's 10 super-huge tanks in slightly less than five years. So far, Hanford has averaged about one tank a year. The U.S. Department of Energy believes the deadline can be met.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office is more pessimistic. This new deadline is expected to be locked down in a few months.\*\*\* The state, federal Energy Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are 21 years into an often-changed legal pact -- dubbed the Tri-Party Agreement -- that governs the site's cleanup timetables and standards. The three parties are in the final stages of negotiating a consent order -- a change in the legal pact that a judge can later enforce if the feds balk at the timetables. Hanford has had major trouble in meeting past and current legal and non-legal cleanup deadlines -- including those addressing the underground tanks. If adopted, the agreement would delay start-up of a massive waste-glassification complex from 2011 to 2019. And completion of the glassification would shift from 2028 to 2047. In the shorter term, the proposed consent order calls for one cluster of 16 underground single-shell tanks to be cleaned out by 2014.

[http://www.seattlepi.com/local/414774\\_hanford29.html](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/414774_hanford29.html)

January 28, 2010

### **Governors seek waste removal, *New Hampshire Business Review***

A letter sent last month to the U.S. Department of Energy by the six New England governors is urging the agency to remove nuclear waste from the region “at the earliest possible date.” The letter, sent by the governors Dec. 16, including Gov. John Lynch of New Hampshire, was sent to Steven Chu, secretary of the DOE. It supports the department’s proposal to create a blue-ribbon commission to address

alternatives to management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from both stored sites and currently operational facilities. The DOE first proposed the nuclear waste commission back in March 2009, but it has yet to get off the ground. New England is home to three decommissioned nuclear power plants – Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station in Wiscasset, Maine, Yankee Rowe in Rowe, Mass., and Connecticut Yankee in Haddam, Conn. – where spent nuclear fuel from previous operations is kept. The governors' letter contends that New Englanders pay "tens of millions of dollars annually for continued storage of such material."

<http://www.nhbr.com/businessnews/statenews/586174-257/story.html>

Copy of letter available at:

<http://www.sustainablefuelcycle.com/resources/20091216GovernorsNEGCNuclearWasteLetter.pdf>

January 28, 2010

### **DOE stimulates confusion on ARRA jobs, *Knoxville News-Sentinel Blog***

For those of you who've spent time on Recovery.gov or otherwise invested effort in trying to track and understand the spending under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, you know it can be a confusing chore. The Department of Energy has added to the confusion by using different models for calculating the number of jobs created and/or saved by the Recovery Act projects. For instance, a few days ago, John Shewairy, DOE's public affairs chief in Oak Ridge, provided -- at my request -- the latest statistics on how many Oak Ridge jobs had been created or saved by with stimulus spending. As of Dec. 31, he said, the total for all Oak Ridge projects was 1,499 jobs. At roughly the same time of my request, Ron Murphree, the chair of DOE's environmental advisory board in Oak Ridge, received a briefing on the Recovery Act spending on environmental cleanup projects. According to the briefing packet he received, DOE's stimulus spending on environmental projects in Oak Ridge had saved or created 2,843 jobs. And that was just for environmental projects in Oak Ridge, which means it didn't include things such as the building of a new chemistry lab at Oak Ridge National Lab or other Recovery Act projects outside the Environmental Management (EM) program.

[http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/doe\\_stimulates\\_confusion\\_on\\_ar.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/doe_stimulates_confusion_on_ar.html)

January 26, 2010

### **Public largely critical of depleted uranium disposal, *Salt Lake Tribune***

Utah's depleted uranium regulations should ensure no harm will come to the public or the environment as long as the waste remains dangerous -- and that, said some Utahns on Tuesday, means the radioactive waste does not belong in a shallow disposal site in western Utah. "What disturbs me is that this company thinks we are so dumb in this state that we don't understand what is going on," testified Jeri Roos, at the Utah Division of Radiation Control's public hearing on a proposed regulation for depleted uranium. "What matters is we don't want it, just like the other states don't want it." The hearing attracted more than three dozen people during an hour filled with remarks that were sometimes passionate, sometimes critical and sometimes highly technical.

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_14275000](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14275000)

January 27, 2010

### **Legislation takes aim at uranium mill cleanup, *The Daily Record (Colorado)***

On Tuesday, environmental activists announced legislation that will be proposed in the state House of Representatives soon. The Uranium Processing Accountability Act would require uranium processors to comply with clean-up orders before new applications are processed, strengthen public oversight of bonding requirements; require processors to inform residents about threats to their water if they have registered wells in close proximity to known groundwater contamination; and require processors to amend their operating license before accepting new sources of "alternate feeds." The legislation would affect the Cotter uranium mill south of Cañon City.

<http://www.canoncitydailyrecord.com/Top-story.asp?ID=12822>

January 26, 2010

**DOE responds to air quality concerns, *Carlsbad Current-Argus***

CARLSBAD — Department of Energy officials have responded to concerns about increasing levels of a toxic chemical detected in air samples at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant southeast of Carlsbad. According to a news release distributed by the Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, an environmental watchdog group, the facility has detected increasing levels of carbon tetrachloride over a period of several months. The chemical is used as a solvent in weapons production and is a suspected carcinogen. Roger Nelson, chief scientist at the Carlsbad Field Office of the Department of Energy, said carbon tetrachloride is one of several volatile organic compounds, or VOC, regularly monitored at the facility. "The levels began rising significantly in July coincident with the arrival of one particular waste stream from Idaho," said Nelson. That waste stream, he said, originated at the Idaho National Laboratory, a facility that is transferring radioactive waste generated by the weapons industry for permanent placement at WIPP.

[http://www.currentargus.com/ci\\_14275741](http://www.currentargus.com/ci_14275741)

January 22, 2010

**DEMCO gets \$2.54 million contract to remove old waste tank, hot soils at ORNL, *Knoxville News-Sentinel Blog***

Bechtel Jacobs Co., DOE's cleanup manager in Oak Ridge, has awarded a \$2.54 million subcontract to DEMCO Inc. for removal of an underground waste tank at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the highly radioactive soils that surround it. The work is being funded by the Department of Energy with money from the Recovery Act.

The cleanup project has been on hold since 2001, when workers encountered unexpectedly high radiation fields (6 rems per hour) as they began to excavate the soil around Tank W-1A. The tank at one time collected and stored liquid nuclear wastes from some lab operations. Bechtel Jacobs will oversee the project, but New York-based DEMCO will provide the site superintendent, equipment, equipment operators and laborers for the cleanup project that's expected to take about 16 months to complete. The project includes removing of the old 4,000-gallon stainless steel tank and its concrete support structure. The radioactively contaminated soils will be excavated and transported to the Nevada Test Site for disposal. Some of the soils apparently are not expected to meet the criteria for disposal at NTS, and those will be "containerized" and transferred to an Oak Ridge storage facility.

[http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/demco\\_get\\_254m\\_contract\\_to\\_rem.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/demco_get_254m_contract_to_rem.html)

January 22, 2010

**A Texas solution for mercury storage, *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel***

The Department of Energy turned the heat down last week on a simmering dispute over the possible disposal of mercury at a site south of Whitewater that currently houses uranium mill tailings. Although the decision is not final, the Energy Department announced Thursday that a privately controlled site near Andrews, a community in West Texas, is its preferred alternative for permanently storing up to 14,000 tons of mercury that's currently held in a variety of locations around the country. That's welcome news for this region. The site near Grand Junction was one of seven the federal agency was considering for mercury disposal, it was announced last year.

[http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/opinion/stories/2010/01/22/012410\\_6B\\_Mercury\\_edit.html](http://www.gjsentinel.com/hp/content/news/opinion/stories/2010/01/22/012410_6B_Mercury_edit.html)

Draft EIS Available at: <http://www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA/documents/EIS-0423DExecSummary.pdf>

[See DOE Mercury Storage EIS website: <http://www.mercurystorageeis.com/>]

January 21, 2010

## **DOE Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning, Long-Term Stewardship at West Valley Demonstration Project, NY, *DOE Press Release***

Washington D.C. --The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced today that it has issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center, DOE/EIS-0226.

<http://www.em.doe.gov/pdfs/NR%20WVDP%20Final%20EIS%20jan212010.pdf>  
EIS website: <http://www.westvalleyeis.com/>

January 20, 2010

## **UK returns nuclear waste to Japan, *BBC News***

The first shipment of highly radioactive waste from the UK has left the Sellafield nuclear site, the BBC has learnt. It has been loaded onto a ship specifically designed to carry nuclear waste that will sail for Japan later. The waste is a by-product of nuclear fuel spent by Japanese reactors that was sent to the UK for reprocessing during the 1980s and 1990s. Some campaigners have criticised the shipments, saying they are dangerous. "It is highly irresponsible for the industry to still be sending this kind of material across the world," said anti-nuclear campaigner Martin Forward. But Sellafield spokesman Mike Johnson said the site was simply fulfilling its contractual obligations, and government policy, in transporting the waste safely. Only two countries, the UK and France, have been engaged in the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from power stations.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8469249.stm>

January 19, 2010

## **Vit plant mixing hazards raises worries, *Tri-City Herald***

Inadequate mixing of some radioactive wastes at the Hanford vitrification plant could cause a criticality or a build-up of flammable gas that could cause an explosion, according to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. But the Department of Energy believes the problem can be resolved. It initiated tests on the mixing system planned for parts of the vitrification plant after a panel of experts in 2006 identified it as one of 28 technical issues that needed to be studied. It's the last major and complex issue to be resolved for the plant, which is half-completed.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/867954.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/867954.html)

January 14, 2010

## **Utah appeals decision on radioactive waste from Italy, *Deseret News***

DENVER — Utah should have a say over whether a company can ship low-level radioactive waste from another country into the state, attorneys argued Thursday before a federal appeals court. Attorneys for Utah and an interstate compact that regulates the waste argued before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the law creating the compact gives the state and other members broad authority. They asked the judges to reverse a Utah federal court decision saying the Northwest Interstate Compact can't block EnergySolutions Inc. from shipping in low-level radioactive waste from Italy. EnergySolutions wants to import up to 20,000 tons of low-level radioactive waste from Italy. The waste would be processed in Tennessee, and about 1,600 tons would be disposed of in Utah. Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman used the state's veto power on the compact to try to keep the foreign waste out.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705358570/Utah-appeals-decision-on-radioactive-waste-from-Italy.html>

January 14, 2010

## **Department of Energy: Actions Needed to Develop High-Quality Cost Estimates for Construction and Environmental Cleanup Projects, GAO Report**

[Excerpt from Report Summary] DOE has not had a policy that establishes standards for cost estimating in place for over a decade, and its guidance is outdated and incomplete, making it difficult for the department to oversee the development of high-quality cost estimates by its contractors. DOE's only cost-estimating direction resides in its project management policy that does not indicate how cost estimates should be developed. In addition, DOE's outdated cost-estimating guide assigns responsibilities to offices that no longer exist and does not fully include most of the best practices from government and industry in GAO's cost-estimating guide. Lacking a documented policy and associated guidance that contain best practices, DOE does not have appropriate internal controls in place that would allow its project managers to provide contractors a standard method for building high-quality cost estimates. DOE has drafted a new cost-estimating policy and guide but the department expects to miss its deadline for issuing them by more than a year.

Report available at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10199.pdf>

January 14, 2010

### **Court Rules for Utilities in Nuclear Waste Case, Courthouse News Service**

The Federal Circuit reinstated a ruling that the federal government can't blame its failure to collect radioactive waste from utilities on "unavoidable delays." The court ruled 11-1 to overturn a federal claims court's ruling that the D.C. Circuit lacked jurisdiction to order the government to fulfill its contracts. Sitting en banc, the Washington, D.C.-based appeals court ruled that the D.C. Circuit had jurisdiction to review the Department of Energy's failure to comply with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), and that the court's mandate barring the agency from using the "unavoidable delay" argument was not void, as the U.S. Court of Federal Claims had ruled. For years the nation's nuclear energy facilities have been paying the DOE some \$750 million per year under waste storage contracts that have yet to be honored. The DOE has not accepted any nuclear waste from any of the utilities, even though the law required it do so by 1998 - a fact that has generated dozens of breach of contract complaints and more than \$1 billion in judgments against the government.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/01/14/23695.htm>

January 14, 2010

### **Moab tailings removal hits milestone, 136 containers shipped**

MOAB — The U.S. Department of Energy Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project last week shipped 136 containers of mill tailings, the maximum number that can be transported in a single train. The load was sent from Moab to a disposal cell 30 miles north near Crescent Junction. The shipment held about 4,700 tons of tailings, bringing the total quantity shipped to more than 680,000 tons.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705358287/Moab-tailings-removal-hits-milestone-136-containers-shipped.html>

January 14, 2010

### **DOE looking for risky remains at Hanford, Tri-City Herald**

HANFORD — Work has begun with federal economic stimulus money to solve the mystery of what's buried in one the most hazardous burial grounds of the Hanford nuclear reservation. The 618-10 Burial Ground "received some nasty stuff from the labs in the 300 Area where they did everything done at Hanford but at a small scale," said Larry Gadbois, scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency, a regulator on the project. The six-acre burial ground includes 94 pipes buried vertically that allowed trucks to drive up and quickly drop radioactive and chemical waste underground. Most were made by removing the tops and

bottoms of 55-gallon drums and then welding five of them together to form pipes. The 618-10 Burial Ground also includes 23 trenches. Many records of what they contain were destroyed in the early 1990s.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/862000.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/862000.html)

January 13, 2010

### **Hanford contractor begins retrieving radioactive waste from tank, *Tri-City Herald***

The new Hanford tank farm contractor began pulling radioactive sludge from another underground tank Tuesday, the first it has started since taking over operations 15 months ago. Under proposed new legal deadlines, the Department of Energy must have all 16 leak-prone underground tanks in the area called C Farm emptied by 2014. The tank farms have 149 single-shell tanks total that must be emptied into sturdier double-shell tanks, with some solids retrieval done on 12 tanks and retrieval completed on seven. "Ecology expects this retrieval to kick start the remaining tank retrievals in C Farm, leading to completing all tank waste retrievals in the near future," said Jeff Lyon, project manager at the Washington State Department of Ecology, a regulator on the project.

<http://www.hanfordnews.com/news/2010/story/14576.html>

January 11, 2010

### **Yucca Haunts Admin's Lagging Efforts on Nuclear Waste Study Panel, *New York Times***

While President Obama's fiscal 2011 budget proposal is expected to sound a death knell for the planned Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, the administration has so far failed to launch the blue-ribbon commission it promised almost a year ago to decide on a waste-disposal alternative. Hanging in the balance is 60,000 metric tons of commercial and defense nuclear waste. "I find it quite disconcerting that a commission with a proper broad charter to look at this problem hasn't been created," said Arjun Makhijani, president of Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, a nonprofit opposed to nuclear power. "I think the bigger danger is that inaction will simply lead us back to Yucca Mountain," Makhijani said, adding, "Leaving the problem to fester is not good." No one expected the issue would be left to fester last February when Obama dramatically cut funding for the Nevada repository in his fiscal 2010 budget request and announced his intention to form a commission to chart an alternative waste-management solution. Energy Secretary Steven Chu quickly followed up, telling Congress last March that the commission would be formed "ideally" within a month and would craft recommendations by the end of 2009.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/01/11/11greenwire-yucca-haunts-admins-lagging-efforts-on-nuclear-24943.html>

January 10, 2010

### **Challenge Is Planned After Nuclear Site Is Excluded From Park, *New York Times***

TRI-CITIES, Wash. (AP) — Supporters of the B Reactor at the Hanford nuclear site in Richland are preparing to fight a decision by the government not to consider it for inclusion in a Manhattan Project National Historical Park. A draft study released by the National Park Service in December concluded that only part of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Landmark District in New Mexico should be considered for the park. It excluded Hanford's B Reactor and historic facilities at the Department of Energy's site in Oak Ridge, Tenn., although the park service might be willing to play a limited role at the sites. Maynard Plahuta, president of the B Reactor Museum Association, said the draft study's arguments for excluding the B Reactor from a possible national park were "very, very weak."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/us/10hanford.html?scp=4&sq=nuclear&st=cse>

January 8, 2010

### **Questions raised about depleted uranium safety, *The Salt Lake Tribune***

A Utah environmental group has scheduled a meeting with Gov. Gary Herbert to press its case that more testing is needed to make sure depleted uranium coming to Utah is not too hot. HEAL says it reviewed shipping papers for some Savannah River, S.C., cleanup waste already in Utah and discovered that the DU, as depleted uranium is often called, contains reactor waste in concentrations that might top the radiological hazard limit set in state law. But, according to the group, it's hard to say for sure because the U.S. Energy Department has sampled too few of the DU drums from its Savannah River cleanup in South Carolina -- just 33 of 33,000. "We hope you will work to ensure that any drums exceeding [state] limits are promptly rejected and returned to the Department of Energy," said HEAL Director Vanessa Pierce in a Jan. 5 letter to the governor. The group is scheduled to meet with Herbert Jan. 20.

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_14152071](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14152071)

[See Related Article Below: January 4 Salt Lake Tribune]

January 7, 2010

### **Energy park at Hanford holds promise for powering vit plant, *Tri-City Herald***

A proposed energy park at Hanford could include piped natural gas, a biofuel plant and acres of solar panels that may help power the vitrification plant and one day produce commercial power. Gary Petersen, vice president of Hanford programs for the Tri-City Development Council, told Benton County commissioners Wednesday that Cascade Natural Gas has proposed piping natural gas to the future site, which could supply a significant amount of the energy needed to power the vitrification plant being built there. Two Cascade pipelines could be used. One would have to cross the Yakima River and the other would have to cross the Columbia. Natural gas is one of four proposals being eyed to offset energy consumption by the massive plant being built to turn some of Hanford's worst waste into a stable glass form.

[http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick\\_pasco\\_richland/story/853561.html](http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/853561.html)

January 4, 2010

### **Shallow Land Disposal Area nuclear waste dump cleanup to start in summer, *Valley News Dispatch (Pittsburgh)***

After making plans for more than 20 years, the first ton of radioactive dirt will be removed from the nuclear waste dump in Parks this summer for the much anticipated 3-year, \$76 million cleanup by the Army Corps of Engineers. The removal of 50,000 tons of nuclear-contaminated soil at what is officially known as the Shallow Land Disposal Area is the last vestige of the nuclear legacy from two former nuclear fuel plants in Apollo and Parks that operated from 1957 to mid-1980s. The plants, owned by the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corp. (NUMEC) and later the Atlantic Richfield Co. and Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), produced nuclear fuel for submarines and power plants as well as a range of nuclear products for the U.S. government and others. Moving on hasn't come quickly or cheaply. Lawsuits for personal injury and contamination, cleanups and government payments to contaminated workers have topped \$267 million in more than two decades.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s\\_660595.html#](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s_660595.html#)

January 4, 2010

### **DU deal: Details are disturbing, *Salt Lake Tribune***

[Editorial] The details of the unwritten deal between Gov. Gary Herbert and the U.S. Department of Energy are coming out. And it appears that Utah will have a devil of a time keeping 11,000 tons of depleted uranium from a DOE cleanup project in South Carolina out of the Beehive State. When Herbert

announced a reprieve last month, it was believed that the governor had bought the state time to thoroughly study DU disposal issues. The first shipment, which was already en route, would be placed in temporary storage. The remainder would stay in South Carolina until the Utah Radiation Control Board put new regulations into place. Now, we learn that the DOE has put the shipments on hold only until mid-February, leaving time for only a cursory safety review before the two remaining train loads of DU leave the loading dock for disposal at EnergySolutions' low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Tooele County.

[http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci\\_14121144](http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/ci_14121144)

[See Related Article Below: January 2 Salt Lake Tribune]

January 3, 2010

**Pantex report card: Performance exceeds expectations, *Amarillo Globe-News***

Contractor B&W Pantex received an "outstanding performance" rating and earned \$32.2 million in fees for managing and operating the Pantex Plant last fiscal year, said a National Nuclear Security Administration evaluation. Pantex, about 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, assembles and dismantles the nation's nuclear weapons. The plant also stores tons of plutonium recovered from dismantled weapons. The NNSA's report said B&W's overall contract performance "substantially exceeded" the agency's expectations and said the contractor earned a rating score of 95, its highest performance score to date. B&W Pantex earned \$32.2 million out of \$33.8 million it was eligible to receive.

[http://www.amarillo.com/stories/010310/new\\_news2.shtml](http://www.amarillo.com/stories/010310/new_news2.shtml)

January 3, 2010

**Big cleanups & bigger landfills in Oak Ridge, *Knoxville News-Sentinel Blog***

Bricks and mortar and other materials that built Cold War success are now filling up Oak Ridge landfills, which is why those landfills keep getting bigger. A major expansion is under way at the Department of Energy's nuclear landfill, with similar projects getting started at a series of sanitary landfills -- which receive construction rubble and other non-radioactive wastes generated during demolition and cleanup projects. Bechtel Jacobs, DOE's cleanup manager, said a significant milestone was achieved in December when the construction team completed installation of a high-density geomembrane on Cell 5 -- a new cell that's supposed to add 465,000 cubic yards of disposal space at the landfill for low-level radioactive waste and other hazardous materials, bringing the total to 1.7 million cubic yards.

[http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/big\\_cleanups\\_bigger\\_landfills.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/01/big_cleanups_bigger_landfills.html)

January 2, 2010

**Radioactive waste soon to find home in Utah, *The Salt Lake Tribune***

It's not really a question whether Utah will be the disposal site for three trainloads of depleted uranium from a government atomic-weapons complex cleanup in South Carolina. It's a matter of how soon. Under an agreement Gov. Gary Herbert reached two weeks ago with the U.S. Energy Department, the answer appears to be about six weeks -- much sooner than the state Radiation Control Board expects to complete its review of safety issues surrounding depleted uranium. After spending most of 2009 looking at DU, the board anticipates it will be at least another year before it is ready to say what engineering standards are needed to minimize the long-term hazard posed by DU disposal at the EnergySolutions site, located about 80 miles west of Salt Lake City. But under the governor's oral agreement with the Department of Energy, state regulators have until mid-February to develop science-based conditions for burying the Savannah River cleanup waste at the EnergySolutions Inc. disposal site in Tooele County.

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_14111447](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_14111447)