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For more information contact:
Dolline Hatchett, (202) 586-5806
Joe Davis, (202) 586-4940

Department of Energy Announces Management Changes for Environmental Management Program

WASHINGTON, DC – As part of its Environmental Management Program review, the Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that 40 percent of the 70 Senior Executives in the Environmental Management (EM) program are being reassigned in order to strengthen, streamline, and delay the leadership of the program. This action also reduces the number of Senior Executives in EM headquarters by approximately 30 percent.

"The purpose of these reassignments is to better leverage the unique talents of these executives, force better integration between the field and headquarters of the real, on-the-ground challenges confronting the program, and to stimulate new thinking and creative solutions to our cleanup challenges," Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Jessie Roberson said.

These changes are consistent with recommendations from the recently released top-to-bottom review of the Environmental Management program. Cross-rotational assignments will be used with greater frequency across senior levels of the organization to ensure that executives have both field and headquarters expertise.

A total of 27 senior staff are involved in the first round of executive reassignments. Reassignments include moves from headquarters to the field, field to headquarters, moves between field offices, and positional moves in headquarters. The 30 percent reduction in headquarters executives is being achieved by executives leaving the Senior Executive Service, reassignment into Senior Advisor positions, and moves to other field or headquarters organizations.

"Executive reassignments will continue in order to better develop the program's leadership cadre and to keep a fresh and dynamic perspective about solving the EM challenges," Assistant Secretary Roberson said.

Some of the reassignments announced today include:

- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, James Owendoff, will become the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology.
- The current Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, Gerald Boyd, will move to the Oak Ridge Operations Office in Tennessee to fill the recently vacated position of Assistant Manager for Environmental Management.
- Two of EM's site managers -- Dr. Harry Boston, currently at the Office of River Protection in Washington, and Dr. Susan Brechbill, Ohio Field Office -- will relocate to EM headquarters. Also moving to headquarters is Robert Rosselli, Deputy Manager for the Richard Operations Office in Washington.
- Roy Schepens, currently at Savannah River Site in South Carolina, will replace Dr. Boston as the Office of River Protection Site Manager.
- A new position -- to be filled by William Murphie from headquarters -- is being created to manage the Portsmouth, Ohio and Paducah, Ky. sites.
- Kim Chaney and Robert Goldsmith are being reassigned from headquarters to the Rocky Flats Field Office in Colorado as the Deputy Manager and Assistant Manager for Safety Programs respectively.
- Marvin Garcia, also from headquarters, will become the Assistant Manager for Business and Logistics for the Savannah River Operations Office in South Carolina.
- Sandra Johnson will move from the Office of River Protection to headquarters as the Director of the Office of Safety, Health and Security.
- Mark Frei, currently the acting Field Manager for the Idaho Operations Office will be returning to headquarters in the near future as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Site Closure.

- Dr. Theresa Fryberger, from EM headquarters, will move into DOE's Office of Science as the Division Director for Research and Environmental Remediation.
- David Huizenga is moving from EM's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integration and Disposition to DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration.
- Thad Konopnicki, also from EM headquarters, is moving to DOE's Office of Engineering and Construction Management.
- Replacements for the Idaho Operations Office and the Ohio Field Office manager positions will be selected through the competitive process.

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