

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Public Affairs

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**Department of Energy Strengthens Management of the Waste
Treatment Plant in Washington State**

Washington, DC - U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today that the Department of Energy is taking steps to strengthen project management at the Hanford Site's Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). As part of this effort, Dale Knutson has been selected to serve as the Federal Project Director for the WTP project.

"Dale has been a skilled and effective leader for the Department of Energy on projects across the country," said Secretary Chu. "I'm confident that the experience he'll bring to this important cleanup effort will help us successfully complete the Waste Treatment Plant project."

"The Waste Treatment Plant is the cornerstone for cleaning up the tank waste on the Hanford site. We look forward to working with Dale Knutson in his new role as the WTP Federal Project Director, so that we can successfully complete this important project and deliver for the state of Washington," said Shirley Olinger, Site Manager at the Office of River Protection in Hanford, Washington.

Knutson currently is director of the Strategic Project Division at DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland. He comes to the WTP project with more than 25 years of diverse project management experience, including overseeing large construction projects at PNNL, DOE's Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado, and starting up the world's highest intensity free electron laser at DOE's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in California.

As Federal Project Director, Mr. Knutson will report to the Site Manager at the Office of River Protection and will also have direct access to the Deputy Secretary of Energy to ensure effective and streamlined communication on this important project.

Mr. Knutson's appointment reflects the commitment by Secretary Chu to draw talent and resources from across the Department to achieve success at the WTP and the Hanford site. As the most complex nuclear construction project in the Department's portfolio, the WTP is a top priority.

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