

Hanford Advisory Board
National Liaison Report – February, 2020

DOE-HQ

They are encouraged by progress in 2019.

They put forward a proposal to deal with a small amount of orphan waste at the SRS. A draft Environmental Assessment for commercial disposal of Defense Waste Processing Facility “Recycle Waste Water” was released for review in 2019.

The first RFPs for End State contracts were issued and one contract was awarded subject to appeal.

They are proud of the completion of the K Basin sludge project.

At SRS the Salt Waste Processing Facility is about to open. The ORR will begin in February.

The 20th Anniversary of WIPP was celebrated with 12,5000 shipments and 15 million safe miles traveled by WIPP trucks This is equal to 33 RT trips to the moon. 292 shipments were made in calendar 2019. 350 shipments are expected in the next year. Idaho is the primary shipping site with 227 shipments in 2019. Oak Ridge and Los Alamos each had about 30.

In 2020 they are focused on getting the best value for tax payers with new procurements. There will be a focus on Innovation and Technology development.

Ike White stated last week that community trust and support is necessary to maintain progress. The Workforce pipeline will be a focus, STEM education is essential to prepare the workforce of the future. This will be a priority across the complex.

I asked questions about how DOE looks at bids from large companies that are up for sale such as AECOM and Fluor. I was told that they look at the proposed new owners of companies to see if they can perform the work and meet DOE obligations. DOE will meet with the leadership of companies buying the contracting businesses to determine if they have the financial ability to take on large-scale government projects.

It appears that AECOM will be acquired by Amentum. That word is a Greek word for a leather strap attached to a javelin used by ancient athletes to make it travel farther, straighter and faster. In addition to the current Hanford tank farm contract AECOM also is a partner in cleanup contracts for WIPP, SRS liquid waste and the Oka Ridge cleanup in TN.

The Secretary of Energy has established a new office to manage all policy within the Department. The Office of Policy will become the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary.

Idaho

The Integrated Waste Treatment Facility is progressing towards operation and the tank waste mission will move toward completion.

WIPP

The TRU waste barrels that were temporarily sent to WCS will be sent to WIPP.

In 2020 the new ventilation shaft will be finished. This will allow for waste placement and excavation to occur simultaneously.

Panel 8 is now being mined will allow emplacements in uncontaminated areas and increase efficient operations. When it is finished this year miners will have extracted more than 155,300 tons of salt. It will begin operation in 2021 when Panel 7 is full.

Oak Ridge

In 2020 the final parts of the K-25 complex will be demolished. Work on Y-12 facility replacements continues.

Savannah River Site

SRS Salt Waste Disposal Unit 7 a 32 million gallon mega volume concrete structure will permanently house radioactive salt waste once it is processed at the Salt Waste Processing Facility. The \$2.3 billion facility is due to begin waste treatment in the first quarter of 2020.

1,100 facilities and buildings still need to be torn down. Completion is scheduled for 2065

West Valley New York

Demolition and removal of the Main Plant Processing building should start in the fall. They took a pause on open air demolition to watch the lessons learned at our PFP. Only two ancillary structures need to be torn down. They currently have 278 casks of TRU waste on site waiting for approval to send them to WIPP.

Los Alamos

They have a problem with chromium contamination in the soils. They have been successfully operating the new plume interim measure. It is a pump and treat system to stop the advancement of the plume and shrink its footprint. It has reached groundwater beneath the Sandia & Mortandad canyons. They are also sending regular TRU shipments to WIPP.

Misc.

In 2020 Portsmouth is preparing the X-326 uranium enrichment process building for demolition. The last processing facility is being torn down at West Valley, New York. The Tonopah Test Range will be transferred to Legacy Management.

Forecasts from the Private Sector (At a conference last week)

Congress will not pass a budget before the election so we will have a CR again. EM will experience a budget cut to plus up the NNSA budget. More waste shipments will be sent to WIPP as the ventilation system is upgraded.

People are accepting that climate change is real and actions need to be taken to reduce it. If we have a democratic president funds will be shifted to climate change and EM will be reduced. Nuclear energy is being embraced because of the goal of carbon reduction.

The election will distract Congress, not much will be done after July.