

Waste Management Today

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Good morning and thanks for checking in with Waste Management Today. Here are the stories we're following:

Office of Environmental Management a Focus this Morning


The Department of Energy's cleanup program will be a focus this morning with Office of Environmental Management Acting Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney set as one of the speakers for the plenary session, which will be immediately followed by a panel on Hot Topics in EM. DOE's cleanup program is in the midst of major procurements at Idaho and Los Alamos and is facing challenges with the recovery of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the halt of transuranic waste programs across the complex, and tank waste cleanup at Savannah River and Hanford. At the same time, EM hopes to reach several major achievements this year and next, including standing up a new site office at Los Alamos, construction completion of Savannah River's Salt Waste Processing Facility, and D&D completion of large complex facilities at Oak Ridge and Hanford.

The "Hot Topics" panel, slated to run from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in location 102BC, will feature speakers from across EM. That includes: Mark Gilbertson, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Site Restoration; Frank Marcinowski, DAS for Waste Management; Kenneth Picha, DAS for Tank Waste and Nuclear Material; Jack Surash, DAS for Acquisition & Project Management; Melody Bell, Assistant DAS for Human Capital and Corporate Services; James Hutton, Associate DAS - Safety, Security and Quality Programs; and Connie Flohr, Acting DAS for Program Planning & Budget (US DOE).

WIPP Recovery and Lessons Learned Subject of Afternoon Panel

Just over a year after incidents at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant triggered its ongoing shutdown, a panel this afternoon will discuss the WIPP recovery effort and lessons learned from the events. In February 2014, a salt truck fire followed by a major radiological release halted operations at the defense waste repository, but investigations into the incidents are wrapping up and mine recovery and decontamination efforts are underway. The WIPP panel will run from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at location 101B. Speakers include: DOE Carlsbad Field Office Manager Joe Franco, Nuclear Waste Partnership President Bob McQuinn, NWP Recovery Manager Jim Blankenhorn, CBFO Recovery Manager Sean Dunagan and DOE Headquarters Recovery Manager Mark Senderling, as well as officials from transuranic waste operations at Los Alamos, Idaho, Oak Ridge and Savannah River.

Some key questions for the panel are: Is DOE on track to resume initial WIPP operations by 2016 and full operations by 2018? What is the cost and schedule for a new WIPP ventilation system and exhaust shaft and what alternatives are being considered? How are transuranic waste programs at other sites progressing during the WIPP shutdown? What impacts will the shutdown have on regulatory commitments with states around the complex?



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Panel to Explore Effectiveness of National Laboratories

This panel will focus on the preliminary findings of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy

Laboratories, established last spring. In its interim report, released last month, the Commission warned of “broken trust” between the Department of Energy and the national laboratories. “This shows up as an excessive level of transactional oversight and control by DOE over the activities of the laboratories, in conflict with the ideal relationship that is envisioned in the FFRDC model. The situation stems from what appears to be a high level of risk aversion exacerbated by disparate attitudes on risk management at DOE headquarters and the field/site offices,” the interim report says.

Panelists include: Lyndon Edwards, Institute Head, Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organization (Australia); William Goldstein, Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Nick Hanigan, Director of Waste Management and Decommissioning, NNL (United Kingdom); Jud Virden, Associate Laboratory, Director, Energy and Environmental Directorate, Pacific National Laboratory; Terry Michalske, Executive Vice President and Director, Savannah River National Laboratory; and Richard Meserve, President, Carnegie Institution for Science. The panel is set to be held from 1:30-5:00 p.m. in location 102BC.

Golf Tournament Winners Announced

The winners of yesterday’s Roy G. Post Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament are:

First Place Foursome

Mark Gradowski
Tom Brouns
John Allbery
Scott Hall

Second Place Foursome:

Daniel Antle
Mike Kramer
Joel Manship

Third Place Foursome:

Mark Frei
William Condon
Keith Klein
Keller Staley

Men's Longest Drive - Bill Condon

Women's Longest Drive - Jan Carlin

Men's Closest to the Pin - Steve McQueary

Women's Closest to the Pin - Jan Carlin



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The banner features the Fluor logo on the left, a central text area with a blue background, and a photograph on the right showing two people in a laboratory setting. The text is white and blue, with the main headline in bold.

From the desk of:

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