

## News from Around the Complex

*January 2007*

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January 30, 2007

### **Department of Energy Awards Over \$10 Million for GNEP Siting Grants, DOE Press Release**

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that over \$10 million will be used for 11 commercial and public consortia selected to conduct detailed siting studies for integrated spent fuel recycling facilities under President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). "These facilities will enable us to effectively recycle spent nuclear fuel in a safe and proliferation-resistant manner. They will set the technological standard and allow us to influence energy policy abroad while increasing energy security here at home," DOE Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said. "With the negotiations complete, we are ready to proceed from an initial phase to one where actual studies can explore sites for GNEP-related facilities." Award recipients, announced in November 2006, will carry out siting studies to determine the possibility of hosting an advanced nuclear fuel recycling center and/or an advanced recycling reactor. Beginning today, recipients will conduct detailed site characterization studies of the sites which were proposed in their Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) responses. Recipients will have 90-days to complete these studies and submit a Site Characterization Report to DOE on May 30, 2007.

<http://www.energy.gov/print/4674.htm>

January 30, 2007

### **Goshutes, PFS press their battle for a nuke dump, Salt Lake Tribune**

The battle over high-level nuclear waste in Utah is not over yet. The Skull Valley Goshutes and their business partners, a group of nuclear-power companies called Private Fuel Storage, filed papers in a Washington, D.C., appeals court Monday to defend their license to store used reactor fuel on the Goshutes' reservation. "The bottom line is: This is not a dead project," said Jay Silberg, an attorney for the nuclear companies. In September, many of the project's critics applauded its demise after a pair of rulings by the U.S. Interior Department that, in effect, blocked waste shipments to the site and invalidated the lease between the companies and the tribe. Silberg said the legal paperwork filed Monday disputes assertions that the project cannot go forward. "Those rulings are still subject to appeal," he said. Silberg added: "We are defending the license." [http://www.sltrib.com/ci\\_5117040](http://www.sltrib.com/ci_5117040)

January 30, 2007

### **Tennesseans sickened by nuclear work get \$553.9M, Most former Oak Ridge workers or family; thousands of claims pending, Knoxville News Sentinel**

OAK RIDGE - Oak Ridge workers or their surviving family members have now collected more than half a billion dollars from a federal fund set up to compensate workers made sick by Cold War nuclear operations. According to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, through Jan. 21, Tennessee claims have resulted in payments totaling \$553.9 million. Another \$32 million was paid to cover medical bills. Most of the Tennessee cases involve former employees at the government's Oak Ridge complex, particularly the K-25 uranium-enrichment plant. Thousands of claims are still pending.

[http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local\\_news/article/0,1406,KNS\\_347\\_5314750,00.html](http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5314750,00.html)

January 29, 2007

### **Handling nuclear waste, Oak Ridge process offers hope, but some worry about transportation, Chattanooga Times Free Press**

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. -- Oak Ridge nuclear scientists say they believe they can remove and recycle the 2,574 metric tons of highly radioactive fuel waste now stored at nuclear plants in Tennessee at Soddy-Daisy and Spring City and in Athens, Ala. "I feel a personal responsibility to my children. I think about the world they are going to inherit. ... We have got to solve this problem, and this is an approach that we can take," said Sherrell R. Greene, director of Oak

Ridge National Laboratory's nuclear technology programs. But the science, now being demonstrated on a lab scale in the very town where nuclear energy and the weapons it spawned were created, also could involve moving the local nuclear waste -- and more from the 103 commercial reactors around the country -- along Tennessee roads to Oak Ridge. That has some people worried. "It would mean a dramatic increase of highly radioactive waste on interstates and rail lines in Tennessee," said Stephen Smith, an East Tennessee veterinarian who also is executive director of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. "I think Oak Ridge would become a bull's-eye on the map with all radioactive waste being shipped" here. <http://tfponline.com/absolutenm/templates/content.aspx?articleid=10088&zoneid=83>

January 29, 2007

**McGaffigan speaks out on Yucca, Management of the Yucca Mountain repository project should be reorganized, according to Edward McGaffigan of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *World Nuclear News***

In personal views expressed at a *Platts* Energy Podium event on 22 January, Commissioner McGaffigan said management should transfer from the Department of Energy's (DoE's) Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) to a government-owned company, and that it could be a good idea to "go back to the beginning" with the Yucca Mountain project. Edward Sproat, the current director of the OCRWM, accepted that there were problems with Yucca but that these were being addressed. McGaffigan has said that Sproat was the most capable administrator he has seen in his ten years at the NRC. One of the problems Sproat admitted was the selection of Yucca Mountain in Nevada by legislation. That had led to vehement opposition by local residents, many of whom feel they are having the nation's high-level radioactive wastes dumped on them. In other countries, such as Sweden, communities are invited to offer to host facilities in exchange for development packages. That has led to the situation where there is actually competition between towns that want nuclear waste storage facilities. [http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/wasteRecycling/290107McGaffigan\\_speaks\\_out\\_on\\_Yucca\\_Mountain.shtml](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/wasteRecycling/290107McGaffigan_speaks_out_on_Yucca_Mountain.shtml)

January 29, 2007

**Fire started during Y-12 operation in December, Officials say blaze sparked during dismantlement task, no one hurt, *Knoxville News Sentinel***

OAK RIDGE - A small fire occurred Dec. 15 during a dismantlement operation at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant, but officials here refused to release many details in response to questions last week. Steven Wyatt, a federal spokesman at the high-security complex, said there were no injuries during the incident and no damage to facilities. A Dec. 22 report by staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board said an "alcohol-moistened cloth ignited during a spark-producing task to separate parts." The safety board's report became publicly accessible last week after passing through a classification review. Wyatt confirmed that the dismantlement operation involved "a uranium component manufactured at Y-12," although he would not specifically state if the component was part of a nuclear warhead or bomb. "What we said is what we're going to say," said Wyatt, a spokesman for the National Nuclear Security Administration. "I don't think I can provide any further clarification." [http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local\\_news/article/0,1406,KNS\\_347\\_5312573,00.html](http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/local_news/article/0,1406,KNS_347_5312573,00.html)

January 26, 2007

**Nuke lobby will use care with Reid, *Pahrump Valley Times***

WASHINGTON - Mindful of the powers wielded by new Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, the leading nuclear industry association does not plan to push Congress for bills this year to speed waste disposal at Yucca Mountain, the group's chief lobbyist said Tuesday. "We are frustrated by the schedule. The Department of Energy is way behind," said Alex Flint, senior vice president of government affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute. "But we also are respectful and realistic of the influence of Sen. Reid," Flint said at an NEI conference for industry executives. "It is going to be extremely hard to use legislation to accelerate the schedule at Yucca Mountain" because Reid has "extraordinary authority." Speaking to reporters later, Flint added, "A fight with Senator Reid right now is not in our best interests" because NEI also wants to nurture policies that encourage new nuclear plant construction. Flint told industry officials NEI will work to get the Energy Department enough money from

Congress to meet a June 30, 2008, application deadline for a Yucca Mountain repository, the latest goal for a project that missed a 1998 opening and other deadlines since then. "Our eggs are in that basket," Flint said. <http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2007/Jan-26-Fri-2007/news/12198065.htm>

January 24, 2007

**U.S. plan for nuclear cartel faces reality check, Expense, technical challenges threaten to keep GNEP in starting gate, MSNBC**

To Greg Simonton and other civic leaders in Piketon, Ohio, population 1,973, it's all about the jobs. Jobs to bolster the economy of the Appalachian burg where the double-digit unemployment rate is always near the highest in the state. Jobs to replace more than 1,500 that have been wiped out over the past decade with the downsizing of a uranium enrichment plant. Jobs that are so attractive they have led Simonton's nonprofit agency to pair up with a private enterprise in a venture that could eventually bring Piketon thousands of tons a year of some of the most toxic nuclear waste on the planet. Piketon is one of 11 communities recently awarded a total of \$16 million in study grants by the U.S. Department of Energy. The grants are to be used to determine if they would be suitable sites for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, or GNEP, a hotly debated proposal that proponents promise will change the world. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16304749/>

January 24, 2007

**WIPP receives first shipment of RH waste, Carlsbad Current Argus**

CARLSBAD — The first shipment of remote-handled transuranic waste arrived at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad Tuesday night, according to the Department of Energy. The shipment originated at Idaho National Laboratory and was transported inside a shielded RH-72B shipping cask, according to a press release. It consisted of three 30-gallon drums of radioactive debris waste that resulted from research activities and testing of nuclear materials. The shipment arrived at the WIPP site at around 10:30 p.m. to a gathering of between 50 and 75 WIPP employees, who cheered as the truck arrived, according to some employees who attended the event. [http://www.currentargus.com/ci\\_5079928](http://www.currentargus.com/ci_5079928)

January 23, 2007

**Facility facing seismic holdup, Augusta Chronicle**

AIKEN — Concerns over seismic activity and other natural phenomena could delay construction of a Savannah River Site facility crucial to ridding the site of high-level nuclear waste. It would be the second time in two years that the estimated cost of the project has risen. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, a congressionally appointed panel of expert reviewers, warned the Department of Energy in a Jan. 10 letter that portions of "geotechnical engineering" for the salt waste processing facility were incomplete. The board said designs for the facility's central process area, where "the majority of radioactive hazardous materials will be contained and processed," contained "several significant structural analysis deficiencies." "The board is concerned that there may be adverse schedule and cost impacts when nuclear safety issues are not resolved early in the design process," Chairman A.J. Eggenberger wrote in his letter to the DOE. Bill Lawless, a member of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board, questioned the true intent behind the safety board's concerns over seismic activity, hinting that the panel might be overregulating the project. [http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/012307/met\\_113585.shtml](http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/012307/met_113585.shtml)

January 21, 2007

**Plutonium transit uproar, Crash of truck with radioactive waste in desert stirs concerns, San Bernardino Sun**

Baking soda, bunk beds, fire extinguishers - and a drum with plutonium-238. The truck that crashed Tuesday near Needles with a load of radioactive waste was a plain old commercial truck carrying plain old products. When emergency workers checked the truck's manifest they were surprised that radioactive material was being shipped with ordinary goods. "This, in and of itself, is very alarming," said San Bernardino County Fire Marshal Peter Brierty, who also directs his agency's hazardous materials unit. Government and industry officials say shipping radioactive materials by commercial carriers is a perfectly safe, perfectly routine practice. The

containers, the routes and the shipping companies are all heavily regulated, and there has never been an accident that resulted in a release of radiation, they said. The radiation emitted by the truck's amount of plutonium-238 is trillions of times more than is allowed in drinking water, Brierty said. The four grams of plutonium involved in the crash would be roughly the volume of a pencil eraser. But that amount kicks out more than 60 curies, a measure of radioactivity. In contrast, the drinking water standard is 15 picocuries per liter, or 15 trillionths of one curie. [http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci\\_5055695](http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_5055695)

January 19, 2007

**Secretary Bodman Celebrates Clean Up Completion of Three Former Weapons Research and Production Sites in Ohio, DOE Press Release**

*Over 1,100 Acres in Fernald, Columbus and Ashtabula Restored*

CROSBY TOWNSHIP – U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today certified that environmental cleanup is complete at three former weapons research and production facilities in Ohio. In a ceremony at the Fernald site, Secretary Bodman, joined by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Stephen L. Johnson and U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-OH), commemorated the efforts of thousands of workers for their contributions at the Fernald Closure site in Crosby Township, the Columbus Closure site at the Battelle Memorial Institute, and the Ashtabula Closure Project at the Reactive Metal Inc. (RMI). As part of the cleanup and restoration effort, workers safely demolished hundreds of contaminated buildings, treated and disposed of millions of tons of waste, and performed extensive soil and groundwater remediation. "Today we honor the rich past of these sites that played a critical role in the Cold War and celebrate the efforts to restore their environmental health," Secretary Bodman said. "The Department of Energy has cleaned up over 1,100 acres in Ohio and, due to the many lessons learned at these sites, we are on track to safely clean up five additional sites across the nation in the next two years." <http://www.energy.gov/news/4618.htm>

January 18, 2007

**DEP: Slag pile plan in Glouco is flawed, the material a metal company departing for Brazil wants to leave in Newfield would be a billion-year hazard, the agency says, Philadelphia Inquirer**

A departing metal manufacturer's plan to leave 50,000 tons of radioactive waste in South Jersey is "fatally flawed" because the pile would remain a nuclear hazard for a billion years, the state Department of Environmental Protection said yesterday. Shieldalloy Metallurgical Corp. proposes to leave its mountain of waste in tiny Newfield, Gloucester County, and secure it for 1,000 years with a soil cap, fence and \$5 million trust. The company is moving most of its operations to Brazil. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which regulates nuclear waste, is considering the plan, which would create the first nuclear-waste dump in New Jersey. DEP, in a petition filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday, demands a hearing that would block Shieldalloy's plan.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/16484670.htm>

January 18, 2007

**1,000 pause work at Hanford, Tri-City Herald**

About 1,000 workers on the Hanford river corridor closure project stopped work Wednesday to focus on safety and compliance issues after a second operations problem in less than a week was discovered. Radioactive tritium spread outside a tent isolating radiological work in the area near the B and C reactors in north Hanford, contractor Washington Closure Hanford discovered Tuesday. On Friday, in unrelated work, its subcontractor had discovered that data for compaction tests in a low-level radioactive waste landfill had been falsified, potentially affecting the long-term integrity of the landfill. The problems follow an independent review ordered by the Department of Energy that concluded in October that workers questioned whether Washington Closure's safety culture was adequate. The most recent problem occurred after workers tapped a small canister Friday that was among debris retrieved from a burial ground that held waste from Hanford's B Reactor and nearby buildings. They discovered tritium gas inside. <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/8570500p-8463882c.html>

January 17, 2007

**Animal carcasses in Hanford waste, *Spokesman Review***

RICHLAND – Carcasses of animals used in radiological experiments at Hanford are among more than 40,000 tons of waste workers dug up and reburied on the nuclear reservation. Closure Hanford remediation manager Mark Buckmaster told the Hanford Advisory Board last week that up to 1,000 animals at a time were kept at a farm near F Reactor along the banks of the Columbia River. They included rodents, cats, dogs, cows, sheep, goats, pigs and alligators. No alligator carcasses were found, however. The remains and wastes were buried in large trenches. The waste was reburied at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, a lined landfill for low-level radioactive waste on the nuclear reservation. The animal experiments started during World War II to learn the effect of radiation on people. Some were planned to learn about the health effects of radiation on workers, while others were for military purposes, Hanford records indicate. The farm continued to operate during the Cold War into the 1970s. <http://www.spokesmanreview.com/local/story.asp?ID=169482>

January 13, 2007

**New nuclear plant hinges on fuel disposal**

**Exelon executive wants U.S. to build depository for spent fuel rods, *Charlotte Observer***

Exelon Corp., the largest U.S. owner of nuclear power plants, wants government assurance of a disposal site for spent fuel before it will proceed with the reactor it has proposed in Texas, Chief Executive John Rowe said Friday. "The government may have fooled me on 17 reactors that I currently run, but I'm the one who's being foolish if I build a new plant without knowing what they're going to do with the spent fuel," Rowe said in an interview in Chicago. Rowe, 61, said his preference would be for the federal government to step up and establish a permanent fuel depository, something it's been unable to do. However, he would not rule out the state of Texas creating its own site. Proposals to build new nuclear plants, including in the Carolinas, are gaining momentum as prices rise for coal-fired and natural-gas plants along with global-warming concerns. About 32 announcements have been made for new nuclear power plant licenses. No company has sought to build a new reactor in about 30 years. Exelon in September said it would seek regulatory approval for a nuclear-fueled plant in Texas, the largest power-consuming state.

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/business/16451490.htm>

January 13, 2007

**Low-level waste landfill records falsified, *Tri-City Herald***

A Hanford subcontractor discovered Friday that data related to the long-term integrity of the nuclear reservation's low-level radioactive waste landfill had been falsified. "This has everyone's attention," said Pat Pettiette, president of contractor Washington Closure Hanford. "All the focus is on getting to the bottom of it." S.M. Stoller, which holds the subcontract to operate the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, or ERDF, found the problem during a routine audit. After contaminated soil and building debris from the cleanup of Hanford is added to the landfill, bulldozers are used to compact it with different standards followed for different types of material. That ensures that once the landfill is closed and an engineered cap is placed on the top to make sure water does not infiltrate contaminated waste, the cap remains secure. If compaction is not adequate, settling can occur that disturbs the cap. Bulldozers run nearly continuously at the landfill, and at least once per shift a technician goes in with instruments to test compaction and confirm that it is adequate. But Stoller officials noticed that one worker recorded results for compaction tests when there was no record of the worker entering the contamination area where he would have needed to be to perform the tests. <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/8558225p-8451749c.html>

January 12, 2007

**Second possible route for Yucca Mountain rail line to get study, *San Luis Obispo Tribune***

LAS VEGAS — The government has set aside a 130-mile stretch of land through central Nevada so the Energy Department can study whether it wants to use it to build a rail line to the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump, officials said. The federal Bureau of Land

Management withdrew the mile-wide corridor from Hawthorne to Goldfield from public use and withdrew an additional 107 square miles of property along portions of a previously designated study route from Caliente to the Yucca Mountain site, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The moves became official with a Wednesday posting in the Federal Register in Washington, D.C. <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/16446821.htm>

January 12, 2007

**LANL Director Pledges Nuclear Waste Cleanup, *Albuquerque Journal***

LOS ALAMOS — Los Alamos National Laboratory has pledged to begin drilling boreholes under a Cold War-era nuclear waste dump in a step toward cleaning up the old waste. The state Environment Department earlier this month fined the lab's operator \$30,000 for missing a deadline on the drilling project — the third time in as many months that the state agency slapped penalties on the nuclear weapons lab for cleanup-related violations. Federal officials said Thursday the lab will begin drilling four boreholes under the dump by the end of this month and will send the results to the Environment Department by the end of April. New Mexico's U.S. senators said Thursday they received a commitment from the lab's director, Michael Anastasio, to get on with the cleanup. They said he has committed to finishing the drilling project by the end of February. <http://www.abqjournal.com/news/state/apcleanup01-12-07.htm>

January 12, 2007

**Opponents vow to prevent Divine Strake blast, *Pahrump Valley Times***

LAS VEGAS — Comedians joked about recently executed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein hiding out in his bunker during the first Gulf War back in 1990. The U.S. military however is seriously concerned about foreign countries burying weapons of mass destruction in underground bunkers. While a National Nuclear Security Administration spokesperson wouldn't confirm what countries are suspected of hiding armaments underground, the NNSA touted the Divine Strake experiment as an essential test of how the military would attack such facilities. Citizen Alert however trotted out attorney Bob Hager before the open house at the Cashman Center Tuesday night, who vowed to file suit to stop the test again this year. The test was scheduled twice before only to be cancelled. The NNSA had talked about moving the test to New Mexico or Indiana. <http://www.pahrumpvalleytimes.com/2007/Jan-12-Fri-2007/news/11902653.html>

January 10, 2007

**Department of Energy Releases Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Strategic Plan, *DOE Press Release***

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon today released the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Strategic Plan, which details the Initiative's purpose, principles and implementation strategy. The Plan outlines a path forward to enable worldwide increase in the use of safe, emissions-free nuclear energy without contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons capabilities in a manner that responsibly addresses the waste produced. "For the United States, GNEP is good policy; for industry, it could be very good business," Assistant Secretary Spurgeon said. "Releasing GNEP's Strategic Plan demonstrates the seriousness DOE places on this Initiative as well as the seriousness of our nation's need to incorporate safe, emissions-free nuclear power into our nation's energy mix. While DOE labs and research facilities host some of the best scientists, the GNEP Strategic Plan gives researchers, experts and industry the opportunity to examine and understand our vision." <http://www.energy.gov/news/4595.htm>

January 10, 2007

**Canned nuclear waste cooks its container; Estimates of radiation damage to materials have been too low, *Nature (subscribers only)***

Storing high-level nuclear waste without any leakage over thousands of years may be harder than experts have thought, research published in *Nature* today shows. Ian Farnan of Cambridge University, UK, and his co-workers have found that the radiation emitted from such waste could transform one candidate storage material into less durable glass after just 1,400 years — much more quickly than thought. Current plans for disposal of some of the most dangerous material generated in nuclear power plants, such as radioactive elements extracted

from spent fuel rods, differ from one country to another. A common strategy being explored is to encase the waste in a hard, crystalline ceramic material — a kind of synthetic rock — and then put it in steel canisters and bury them in cavities excavated underground.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2007/070108/full/070108-6.html>

January 9, 2007

**100+ Groups Call on Congress to Oppose High-Level Radioactive Waste Dumping Plan in Ohio, *CommonDreams.org***

WASHINGTON – In a letter delivered to congressional leaders, 106 national and grassroots organizations expressed opposition to any temporary centralization of irradiated fuel from commercial nuclear power operations in the United States, specifically focusing concern on the Piketon, Ohio site where apparently preparations are already underway for an “interim” dump. The letter summarizes concerns that preparations for storage of high-level nuclear waste in the Southern Ohio Scioto Valley are proceeding under the guise of the Administration’s Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, but are running ahead of that program’s official timeline. The letter also states the signers’ opposition to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership in entirety – a program that would attempt to revive the failed technology of reprocessing.

<http://www.commondreams.org/news2007/0109-03.htm>

Link to letter: <http://www.nirs.org/nukerelapse/congactions/01-08piketon-sign-onlettersignatures.pdf>

January 8, 2007

**U.S. Moves to Become Global Nuclear Fuel Supplier, *Environmental News Service***

WASHINGTON, DC – The Bush administration is pressing forward with plans to recycle spent nuclear fuel in the United States and supply nuclear fuel to other countries that refrain from building nuclear enrichment or recycling facilities to make their own nuclear fuel. The U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, announced Thursday that it intends to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Initiative, GNEP, promoted by President George W. Bush. Under the GNEP, the Energy Department proposes to design, build, and operate three facilities in the United States. A nuclear fuel recycling center would be constructed to separate spent nuclear fuel into reusable and waste components and then manufacture new nuclear fast reactor fuel using the reusable components. An advanced recycling reactor would be built to destroy long-lived radioactive elements in the new fuel while generating electricity. And an advanced fuel cycle research facility would be built to explore spent nuclear fuel recycling processes and other advanced nuclear fuel cycles.

Introducing the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, PEIS, on Thursday, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Dennis Spurgeon said, “Our need for nuclear power - a safe, emissions-free and affordable source of energy - has never been greater and GNEP puts us on a path to encourage expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing nuclear proliferation risks.” <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2007/2007-01-08-05.asp>

January 7, 2007

**U.S. Reviews Ohio Toxic Waste Cleanup, *News 8: KFMB (San Diego)***

CINCINNATI – A bird’s nest nestled in the tall grasses of a wetland symbolizes the end of a 20-year struggle to clean up a site contaminated by radioactive material from a former Cold War-era uranium processing plant. After years of often-contentious public meetings, lawsuits and relentless lobbying, the land is now devoid of 1.5 million tons of its most dangerous waste and has begun its transformation into an undeveloped park and wildlife haven covered with woods, prairie and wetlands. “I thought many times that we would never see it turned into something useable and safe for residents,” said Lisa Crawford, president and a founding member of the citizens group that began fighting for cleanup of the former Fernald plant site 22 years ago. “It’s been a long road, but we finally got there.”

<http://www.kfmb.com/stories/story.76088.html>

January 6, 2006

**Toxic Mound records buried in New Mexico, Some say the contaminated documents could have helped settle the health claims of 700 workers at the former Miamisburg plant, *Dayton Daily News***

In April a team of government contractor staffers traveled to the Energy Department's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to view a vast collection of classified records from Miamisburg's Mound Plant, records they believed were important in determining whether Mound workers got cancer from on-the-job radiation exposures. But when they arrived, Los Alamos officials told the staffers that the records were radioactively contaminated and had been buried deep in a New Mexico landfill for low-level radioactive waste in 2005. Now contractors and worker advocates are concerned that the burial of the records could prevent federal health officials from having a full understanding of the risks faced by Cold War atomic workers at Mound. That could have an impact on 700 Mound workers and their survivors who have applied for federal compensation and medical benefits, contending they developed serious illnesses from exposures to plant toxins. "How does this affect the validity of compensation decisions?" said government watchdog Richard Miller, a former lobbyist for an atomic-workers union. Miller thinks the Energy Department should try to locate and exhume the records, if that's possible.

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/n/content/oh/story/news/local/2007/01/06/ddn010707mou nd1a.html>

January 5, 2007

**Strange Love, *New York Times***

It's odd, the feeling of comfort you get staring up at a 103-foot-tall intercontinental ballistic missile from the bottom of a hardened silo buried in the Arizona desert. It's not that there is any joy in knowing that an ICBM like this, the centerpiece of the Titan Missile Museum in Sahuarita, Ariz., about 20 miles south of Tucson, could have been launched in just 58 seconds, hurling a city-destroying nuclear warhead at the Soviet Union. Armageddon is not a pleasant prospect. No, the sense of comfort in seeing a Titan II comes from knowing that it was never launched. During the heart of the cold war, from the 1960s to the mid-80s, the 54 Titan II underground complexes like this one — with its blast doors, firing console and spartan crew quarters, all preserved as the Titan Missile Museum — were part of the American program of nuclear deterrence, on constant alert to keep aggressive impulses in the Soviet Union at bay. "This is what it took to wage nuclear war," said Chuck Penson, the museum's archivist. "And this is what it took to wage nuclear peace."

<http://travel.nytimes.com/2007/01/05/travel/escapes/05atomic.html>

January 5, 2007

**Bush chooses new nuclear chief, *Knoxville News Sentinel***

WASHINGTON — The White House said Friday that President Bush has chosen a replacement for the man ousted as head of the government's nuclear weapons program in the wake of reports of embarrassing security breakdowns. Bush selected Thomas P. D'Agostino, who currently serves as deputy administrator of defense programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration, to succeed Linton Brooks in the top job there on an acting basis. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman had said Thursday that Brooks would resign within the month. The agency maintains the nuclear weapons stockpile and oversees the nation's weapons research laboratories. The nuclear facilities in Oak Ridge, Tenn., fall under the NNSA. "I have decided it is time for new leadership at the NNSA," Bodman said. Brooks, a former ambassador and arms control negotiator, said he accepted the decision, one he understood was "based on the principle of accountability that should govern all public service. This is not a decision that I would have preferred."

[http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0,1406,KNS\\_350\\_5259099,00.html](http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0,1406,KNS_350_5259099,00.html)