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# Communiqué

## 1st Annual Secretarial Honor Awards

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United States Department of Energy  
Secretarial Honor Awards

April 8, 2008

On April 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman presented the first annual DOE Honor Awards. "This year, we begin a tradition of formally honoring people and their accomplishments," Bodman said. "Tonight, we are honoring a few special individuals, and teams of individuals, who have surpassed even the highest standards of excellence, demonstrating not only great technical knowledge and ability, but also an unwavering commitment to serving the American people."



commitments vital to national security, while integrating safety and security into all activities."

Individual awards:



Tyler Przybylek was presented the Secretary's Exceptional Service Award in recognition of outstanding and unique accomplishment and leadership that exemplifies the highest standards of and dedication to public service and significantly benefits the Department and the Nation.



Bill Ostendorff received the Secretary's Appreciation Award, given to a federal or contractor employee for making a noteworthy contribution to the Department beyond the scope of normal work responsibilities.

The Secretary's Achievement Award was presented to NNSA for its "Getting the Job Done" initiative. The award is given for accomplishing significant achievements on behalf of the Department. The Award citation reads:

"The National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Defense Programs has demonstrated superior performance in support of national security by successfully completing a number of significant activities that support the nuclear weapons stockpile. Their slogan, "Getting the Job Done," has been used to emphasize the importance of following through on com-



***"Our people are by far the most valuable resource at the Department. This year, we begin a tradition of formally honoring these people and their accomplishments."***

**Bernard Pleau**  
Editor

### Contributors

**Jennifer Oliver**  
**FIORE**

**Donald Ami, LASO**

## Complex Transformation Comment Period Extended



*“The Department has gone out of its way to solicit and accommodate input from the public. This extension is on top of an earlier decision to double the comment time and conduct public meetings and hearings in New Mexico and around the country.” Senator Pete Domenici.*

NNSA extended the deadline to comment on its complex transformation Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS) to April 30. The SPEIS identifies NNSA's preferred alternative, the distributed centers of excellence, which would consolidate missions and facilities within the existing NNSA sites. This means that NNSA would eliminate redundancies in missions, capabilities, and facilities, eventually saving money in the future.

"We want to give people every opportunity to adequately express their point of view about NNSA's pro-



posal to make the nuclear weapons complex smaller, safer, more secure, and more cost effective said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino."

Thousands of citizens attended more than 80 hours of public hearings and provided more than 600 oral comments regarding NNSA's proposed transformation. During the official 90 day public comment period 20 pub-

lic hearings were held over a 36 day span. To date NNSA has received more than 85,000 comments.

LANL is NNSA's preferred alternative site for plutonium research, development, and limited manufacturing, along with nuclear weapons design and engineering, and super-computing. Read a [fact sheet](#) on the preferred alternative. The Laboratory's [complex transformation Web page](#) has information about how the Laboratory is impacted by the proposal.



## Earth Day Energy Tips and Information



Secretary Bodman installs the 17,500th energy-saving compact florescent light bulb at Camp Lejeune, kicking off Energy Star's Operation Change Out campaign on Earth Day.

How did the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy celebrated Earth Day April 22, 2008.

Visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov), and you'll see a Flash page on how you can make a difference at home and on the road—as well as information about the technologies they are helping develop, that will completely transform how we get and how we use energy.

### Did you know:

Earth Day was established in 1970 as a private event,

sponsored by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (WI)

Millions of Americans celebrate Earth Day every year, sharing this special day's commitment to protecting the environment

The nation's air is much cleaner today than it was in 1970, and progress will continue

The trend of annual loss of wetlands has been reversed

Restoration and redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites is accelerating

President Bush is meeting his commitment to reduce the National Park Service

maintenance backlog (facts courtesy [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov))

The U.S. government is leading by example, with the Federal Energy Management Program's annual Earth Day activities. You can learn all about FEMP's latest outreach program for Earth Day [here](#).

Take action. Learn what you can do, in your home or office, in your vehicle, alone or with your community. Making smart, "green" energy choices is something we can all do, so visit [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov) and learn how you can take action today.



## Return of D-Mail

This month NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino resumed his communication with employees through his D-Mail, an informal memo on the happenings at NNSA.

"It has been way too long since my last D-Mail," D'Agostino wrote, "and I want to bring you up-to-date on what has been going on here in Washington and around the NNSA complex since our All-Hands Meeting on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>."



"Over the past two months, I, along with Deputy Administrators Smolen, Tobey, and Admiral Donald, have been testifying on the NNSA's FY 2009 Budget Request,"

D'Agostino said. He also thanked those who helped prepare HQ folks for their testimonies.

D'Agostino said he has a "great deal of respect for everyone" in NNSA.

He said he had taken part and a couple of retirement events. One for Savannah

River Site Office Manager Rick Arkin and the other for NNSA Chief Counsel Tyler Przybylek. "It was great being able to recognize Tyler's personal approach to every aspect of his work here in the NNSA and his significant accomplishments during his Federal career," D'Agostino told employees.

He talked briefly about the Pay-Banding and Pay-for-



Performance Demonstration Project and about the reorganization of Defense Programs that Deputy Administrator Bob Smolen is implementing.



***I want to thank you for all of your hard work. Each and every one of you is an integral part of a larger team which is contributing to the national security of this great Nation.***

## DOE Annual Employee Survey

The 2007 DOE Annual Employee Survey results are consistent with the findings

of their contributions to the mission of the agency.

More employees are satisfied with their jobs, believe that workloads are reasonable, and like the kind of work that they do.

I like the kind of work I do.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	445	36.6%
Agree	587	48.2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	122	10.0%
Disagree	40	3.3%
Strongly Disagree	23	1.9%
Missing/Invalid	2	--
TOTAL:	1,219	--

for the 2006 Survey. Here are some of the results from 2007.

### Strengths:

Employees understand how their work aligns with organizational goals, and they understand the impor-

### Weaknesses:

A significant number of employees do not believe recognition or pay raises are dependent on satisfactory job performance.

Significant improvements from the 2006 Survey:

Significant decline:

Fewer employees believe their co-workers

cooperate in getting the work done.

The sample included 1,017 non-supervisory employees of whom 689 responded, and 876 supervisors of whom 530 responded.



The information helps identify and improve programs and processes important to employees, as well as assess the effectiveness of its leadership and management practices.

The full Survey Results are available at: [http://humancapital.doe.gov/2007\\_AES\\_Results/index.html](http://humancapital.doe.gov/2007_AES_Results/index.html).

## LASO Blood Drive a Success



*Depending on patients' needs, your blood may be separated into several different components, which may be used to treat a variety of medical conditions or illnesses: Red Blood Cells, Platelets, Plasma, Cryoprecipitate. Blood is separated into components so that several patients may benefit from one blood donation.*

It was another successful Blood Drive for the Los Alamos Site Office April 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers donated 15 whole blood and three double red cells units.

Thanks to the HEROES!



"LASO made a large contribution and will be saving many lives," said Darlene Rodriguez, LASO blood

drive coordinator.

Mark your calendar, the

next LASO Blood Drive is tentatively scheduled for Wed., Jul. 30<sup>th</sup>. For information on donating blood go online to

[www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org). Learn how you too can be a HERO and save a life.

United Blood Services NM is the community blood supplier for more than 42



**Only one in twenty people regularly give blood. For every person in need of blood, the simple act of giving is heroic. Join HEROES for Life.**

hospitals in NM and the Four Corners Area. It takes approximately 320 units every day to ensure that we have enough blood for our hospitals and the patients they serve.

## Tool Tips - A Gardener's Essentials

For many long, cold months, the avid gardener sits inside the house, eagerly thumbing through seed, plant and gardening catalogs. At last, spring is in sight. Now its time to shovel, hoe, plant, and weed. Here are some tool tips that will help get you started:

Even if there's frost on the ground outdoors, you can start early by growing seedlings. Nurtured indoors, these delicate stems will make your work quicker come spring. Plus, growing your own seedlings will save you cash at the garden shop and enhance your satisfaction with your gardening efforts.

Propagation mats are a great way to get seedlings started indoors. Look for products, like GroFort's Gro-Mat, that provide heat and durability.

Once your seedlings are in

the ground outdoors, you'll want to keep unwanted animal and insect visitors from munching on them. Deer are among the worst offenders when it comes to garden damage. Harsh chemicals and fencing aren't always practical or even desirable. A better alternative is to drive deer away using ultrasonic technology, like Bird-X's DeerGard.

DeerGard is an ultrasonic device with a built-in infrared motion sensor that activates the unit only when deer move into its coverage zone. The frequency is adjustable and the unit is weatherproof. It operates on batteries or AC power. Visit [www.Bird-X.com](http://www.Bird-X.com) to learn more.

After deer, birds are top damagers of home gar-

dens. Crows are notorious seed stealers, and can pick a garden clean of seed in an afternoon. As with deer, sound is one of the most effective, environmentally responsible ways to keep birds out of your garden.

The important thing is to remember non-lethal methods are more effective and environmentally responsible than lethal ones. "Killing birds or deer to keep them away from your garden won't solve the problem," she says. "New deer or birds will simply move in to fill the void left by the dead ones. The key is to convince the animals that your garden is no longer a desirable place to live and dine."

With some planning and gardener-friendly tools, you can ensure spring really is the "most wonderful time of year" for your garden.

Courtesy of ARAcontent



## Social Media Rip Van Winkle From the Editor

Am I the only one who has missed the “Social Media” explosion? I guess I must have had a Social Media blackout. How about you?

Social media is defined as the various activities that integrate technology, social interaction, and the construction of words and pictures, according to Wikipedia, which is the largest and most notable “wiki.”



Most of us have heard about YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, and possibly Flickr, but what about “Twitter, tweet, chirp-screen, wikis, microblogging, Second Life, or Digg” to mention a few of the social media venues available for folks to use. This bold - not so new - world of communication is revolutionizing the way people get news, exchange ideas, share photos and videos, play games, enter alternative worlds, and just plain chatter with one another.

Social media is being coined the second dotcom boom by some. I think they are correct. This microblogging phenomenon, that has my daughters texting friends rather than talking to them and interacting with folks around the world, has too many believers to just fade away.

In 2006 a couple of guys from San Francisco began

the popular social messaging service called Twitter. Wikipedia says “If you're not using [Twitter](#) yet, you may feel as if you've missed out.” Maybe I have!

The firefighters in the last wave of California wild fires used it to talk to one another, the presidential candidates tweet (post comments) their supporters, universities have begun using it to alert students in the event of an emergency, and millions of people worldwide, yes WORLD-WIDE twitter daily. “Twitter is used to tell your friends and family what you are doing during every second of your dull life,” according to one subscriber. Twitter subscribers have a dialog



box that asks the question -- What are you doing? – to which they respond and other subscribers can see and respond to if they desire.

The UK government is exploring ways it can use social media to improve communication with it's citizens.

I foresee NNSA tapping into social media venues as another means for communicating with employees, elected officials, stakeholders, public and the media.

Robert Scoble, Vice Presi-



dent of Media Development at PodTech says “Today’s new media technologies make it easier than ever for independent citizens to break news, critique new products, editorialize on corporate developments, and generally disrupt well-laid communication plans.”



video ~ social networks ~ citizen media ~ Web 2.0 ~ mobile

**PODCAST, BLOG & NEWS CHANNEL**

In the e-book *What is Social Media* from iCrossing, author Antony Mayfield writes, social media is a big deal, there are more than 110 million blogs being tracked on the internet, about 100 million videos being watched daily on video sharing websites, and more than 200 million profiles on MySpace.

Mayfield concludes, “.....What is beyond doubt is that social media – however it may be referred to in the future – is a genie that will not be disappearing back into its bottle.”

So practice your texting skills and keep those mobile gadgets at hand so you can be in touch, informed and ready at a moments notice to Twitter away about – What you are doing?



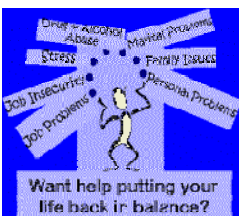


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### Employee Assistance Programs: An Important Resource

The Department of Energy's most important asset is its employees, and the agency is dedicated to maintaining a healthy and productive workforce. Each site has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help individuals with issues in their personal and professional lives.

EAPs offer no-cost, confidential, short-term counseling and community resource referral for various issues affecting employee mental and emotional well-being, such as stress, grief, financial, depression/anxiety, family problems, workplace conflict, and substance abuse.

Immediate family members of employees may also take advantage of EAP services at no cost. EAP counselors also work in a consultative role with managers and supervisors to help address workplace and organizational challenges and needs.

For more information, or to contact the EAP at your location, please call your occupational medical clinic or human resources office.

## In Case You Missed It



National Nuclear Security Administration  
Service Center Intranet

### Pegasus

The NNSA Service Center is leading a three-phase effort to implement an enterprise-wide issues and action tracking system for NNSA. This system is based on the Pegasus system developed at the Y-12 Site Office and is already in use by most Site Offices.

Phase 1 of this project will roll out the current version of Pegasus to the remaining Site Offices and the Office of Defense Programs.

Phase 2 will upgrade all existing Pegasus modules. The upgraded, enterprise-wide system will be called ePegasus. Phase 2 is scheduled for completion in Oct. 2008.

Phase 3 will integrate a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) document management system to drive the correspondence control module. Phase 3 should be invisible to the end user. Phase 3 should be completed by the end of FY09.

If you have additional questions contact Maggie Wood at [mwood@doeal.gov](mailto:mwood@doeal.gov) or Bob Brese [robert.brese@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:robert.brese@nnsa.doe.gov).



### NNSA's New Website

NNSA's new web site enhances its ability to provide information to the public and media about its mission and programs. The new web address is [www.nnsa.energy.gov](http://www.nnsa.energy.gov).

"I encourage everyone to visit our new web site," said Administrator Tom D'Agostino. "This is an

important resource for people to learn about the important national security work that we do. A top-notch organization needs a top-notch website, and with the launch of the new NNSA website, we have just that."

Information about NNSA's work, press releases, fact sheets, congressional testimony, speeches by leadership,

and a host of other information is available on the website. Further content, photos and other features will continue to be added in the future.

The site also has a RSS feed where users can sign up to receive notices of content changes and newly posted news releases. To sign up for the RSS feed, visit [http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/news/rss\\_feed.htm](http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/news/rss_feed.htm).



### Additional Special Nuclear Material Leaves Livermore

NNSA has completed a third shipment of special nuclear material from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The material was moved to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina under high security.

"As we've indicated before, we have an accelerated plan to remove special nuclear material from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "We continue to do this safely and securely and within the timeframe we've outlined. We are well on

our way to keeping our commitment to the Livermore community and the nation as a whole."

The shipment is part of NNSA's plan to remove high-security nuclear material from LLNL by 2012. This is the third shipment to leave LLNL since the de-inventory project was initiated.