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Communiqué

HASC Subcommittee Hearing

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A day after holding a media round table discussing the future of NNSA, Administrator Tom D’Agostino, and the Lab and Plant



He also praised NNSA employees. “Our dedicated workforce is the key to transformation and its success. They will be the agents of transformation and their insights, experience and proven dedication will be needed to carry it out. Their expertise constitutes a key element of our nation’s national security,” D’Agostino told the subcommittee.

He noted, “.....the present Complex is too inefficient, too old, and too costly to sustain.....Our challenge is to move from a nuclear complex designed for the Cold War to a 21st century national security enterprise.....”

directorate were on Capital Hill for a hearing. They presented testimony to and answered questions from the House Armed Services Committee’s Strategic Forces Subcommittee Jul. 17th.

Although the subcommittee was interested in RRW, Complex Transformation, CMRR, NIF, MOX, Security and other ongoing programs within NNSA, they had a real concern for the future workforce of the nuclear weapons enterprise.



In the media round table D’Agostino told reporters there are two possible futures for NNSA. One keeps national security

strong while setting into reality the NNSA vision of the future nuclear weapons enterprise. The other continues the present stockpile stewardship,

life extension program where NNSA moves forward with incremental changes pouring resources into an ever aging cold war complex. D’Agostino strongly favors the first option.

With reference to the second option D’Agostino said, “The short answer is, we will reach the point where NNSA will be unable to maintain America’s nuclear deterrent.”

D’Agostino told the subcommittee about the NNSA Future Leaders Program. “It’s great to have young folks coming in with different ideas,” he said. “We are very much energized on the federal side to bring in young talent like that.”

The plant and lab managers echoed D’Agostino’s remarks talking about their facilities’ college internships and college and high school recruitment programs.



Bernard Pleau
Editor

Contributors

Alison Bennett, GEN-QUEST

Jeff Berger, LANL

Tatjana Rosev, LANL

Laura Anderman, LANL

Leroy Sanchez, LANL

Acknowledgements



Phil Roebuck (left) was presented a Distinguished Career Service award for his 25 years of public service.



Diane Menapace, above, and Frank White, below, were both awarded LASO Site Office Coins. Diane for her work on the Y-12 Merrick Survey and Frank for his work on the new LASO building



Recognized for their years of public service are:

- Joe Vozella (above) - 30 years**
- Bernie Pleau (right) - 20 years**
- Steve Frye (below) - 20 years**



Juan Sanchez, above, received his certificate for completion of his safety quality engineering program.



Don Ami, left, was thanked for his work on the site visit of Dep. Asst. Sec. for Inter-governmental & External Affairs, Steven Morello

Thanks!



A Lengthy All Hands

Employees got a soup to nuts briefing at the Jul. 8th All Hands meeting. The briefings covered everything from moving into the new LASO building to core work hours and the transit subsidy program.

Site Office Manager Don Winchell talked to folks first about performance metrics, gave an

update on the staffing numbers at LASO and answered a few questions before handing out several recognition awards.

After the awards segment Winchell started the second half of the show talking about the new building. He thanked Project Director Frank White for getting the work done on time and under budget and turned the microphone over to him.

White went on to talk about the big move in and final construction going on. White said the contractor is working on a punch list of items

to complete the building project. He said the move is being done in phases by organization beginning the middle of this month with the expectation of having it



completed by the end of Jul.



Next up, Joe Vozella talked about the new building occupant emergency plan

– how to get out and where to go, or stay put when something unexpected happens.

Jerry Masse told folks about the IT changes for the new building and the status of the new computers we are all anticipating.

Rudy Pino followed Masse with a short note about records management and the LASO issues tracking soft-

ware program.

Mark Delgado talked to folks about the security plan for the new building. Folks have to do things a lot differently than they are use because of the stricter security requirements.

Irene Lucero gave folks some good news in light of the recent gas price hikes. DOE will begin offering a transit subsidy to folks who use the NM Park & Ride program and the SECA Van service. DOE will reimburse 100% of the cost.

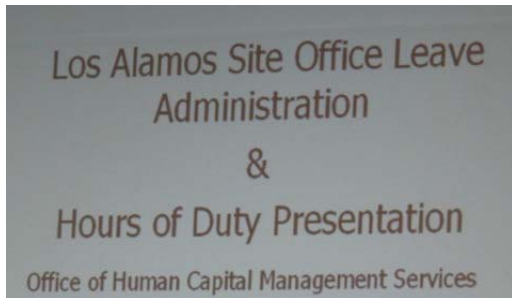
Acting Deputy Manager Roger Snyder rounded out the meeting with a few new rules coming into effect with the move to the new building and some general information on how things will work there.

After all this, everyone got to sit through a briefing on hours of duty, work schedules and attendance.

Whew!



Jerry Masse talks IT



Anastasio Talks About Lab Accomplishments



Michael Anastasio

Laboratory Director Michael Anastasio highlighted the Lab's accomplishments during the second year of management by Los Alamos National Security, LLC, and discussed the outlook for the future at an all-employee talk at the National Security Sciences Building.

said the Laboratory had met "head on" numerous challenges, such as workforce restructuring and uncertainty about future government policy and funding opportunities.

thing that many doubted we were able to do."

The director also introduced a short video showcasing the Lab's achievements over the past year, in particular the success of the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test (DARHT) facility, increased levels of safety and security, improved environmental stewardship, and Roadrunner, the world's fastest and most energy-efficient supercomputer.

Anastasio also addressed employees' concerns. "I know that many of you feel frustrated," he said, admitting that he, too, felt "frustrated" by policy and staffing issues, as well as demands for compliance with safety and security measures. Anastasio outlined strategies currently being implemented to render the Lab safer, more efficient, and less expensive, such as focused use of attrition while continuing the hiring process, the re-sizing, re-location, or elimination of functional areas Lab wide, the assumption of full KSL Services' contractual responsibilities by 2009, reducing the Lab's footprint, and others.

Praising Roadrunner as the Lab's "most visible accomplishment," Anastasio said, "We were able to do some-



Benjamin Bergen of Computational Physics and Methods talks Roadrunner at the regional community leaders' breakfast

"The country depends on us to answer its toughest questions," Anastasio said, adding that he felt the Laboratory was well equipped to do so.

While acknowledging that the past year had been "a tough one," he

Community Leaders' Breakfast

More than 100 community leaders attended the quarterly Community Leaders' breakfast Jun. 19th, which included a poster session in the J. Robert Oppenheimer Study Center. Many of the leaders also participated in tours of Laboratory facilities after the morning briefings.



Donald Winchell, left, LASO Site Office Manager, talks with Deputy Laboratory Director Jan Van Prooyen

LASO Manager Don Winchell talked to Community leaders about the NNSA Focus Areas:

- Ensure the Overall Effectiveness of the Inter-

face between Federal Oversight and Contractor Assurance Systems for Nuclear Safety, Physical, and Cyber Security

- Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Planning; Reliable Replacement Warhead; and, Complex Transformation
- Reenergize the NNSA Nuclear Material Consolidation and Disposi-

tion effort

- Develop and articulate NNSA's Vision for the Future for the integrated roles and missions of the National Security Laboratories
- Integrate Project Management Best Practices throughout NNSA
- Reenergize the NNSA Employer of Choice Initiative



A Critical Juncture (compiled from DOE sources)



With our increased reliance on foreign oil, the U.S. needs to research and develop alternative energy resources -- domestic oil and gas exploration, do-

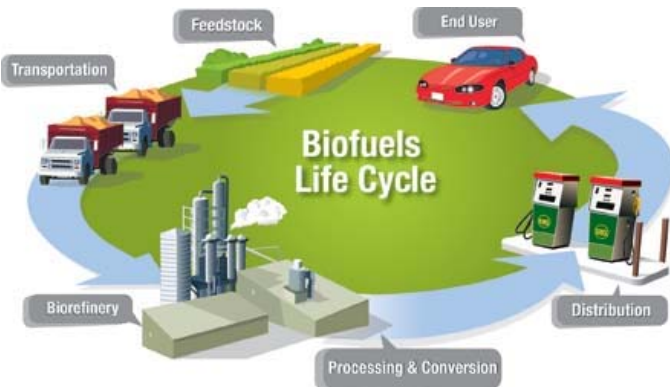
America become more energy independent by investing in research to develop alternative fuel sources.

Acting Deputy Secretary

investing heavily in wind. The U.S. is the fastest-growing wind market worldwide. Wind energy could produce 20% of U.S. electricity by 2030.



In the long run, the solution is to reduce demand for oil by promoting alternative energy technologies. My administration has worked with Congress to invest in gas-saving technologies like advanced batteries and hydrogen fuel cells. We've mandated a large expansion in the use of alternative fuels. We've raised fuel efficiency standards to ambitious new levels.



"..... we are eager to continue the trend of increasing the use of wind power at unprecedented rates," DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Andy Karsner said.

mestic coal, biofuels, wind and solar, hydrogen fuel cell technology and nuclear energy. No single technol-

Jeffrey Kupfer delivered the following remarks at the launch of GreenHunter Energy's biodiesel refinery,



ogy can eliminate America's dependence on foreign oil, but a combination of approaches may hold potential for assuring U.S. energy independence.

which will be the nation's single largest biodiesel refinery, producing 105 million gallons of "white-water" B100 biodiesel per year.

President Bush has made energy security a priority since the early days of his administration which has seen tens of billions of dollars spent to research, develop and promote alternative energy sources.

"Today,..... we reach another milestone in our effort to make America more energy secure," Kupfer said. "We must act swiftly and aggressively to meet this growing demand in an environmentally and economically responsible way."

The private sector and the federal government working together can help

The Department is also

In addition to wind and biofuels, there is increased interest in nuclear energy and an anticipated surge in permit requests for construction of nuclear plants.



To find out more about energy sources and research being done, go to the Department's energy source web page at www.energy.gov/energysources/index.htm.





Los Alamos Site Office
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Phone: 505-667-6691
Fax: 505-606-0026
E-mail: bpleau@doeal.gov

We're on the Web!

<http://www.doeal.gov/LASO/>



DOE and Sweden to Advance Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles

Alexander Karsner, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Tomas Kåberger, Director General of the Swedish Energy Agency, signed a memorandum of understanding Jul. 7th to work on accelerating commercialization of plug-in hybrid vehicles. The MOU outlines a one year, \$1 million cost-sharing arrangement that will be equally funded by DOE and the Swedish Energy Agency.

Karsner said, "The advancement of clean energy technologies, such as plug-in hybrid vehicles, will help address the serious challenge of global climate change while enhancing our countries economic growth and increased energy security."

In Case You Missed It



Lightning Safety

Lightning is one of the

most underrated severe weather hazards, according to the National Weather Service. Each year in the United States, lightning kills more people than hurricanes or tornadoes.

Seven employees have been struck by lightning on Laboratory property in the past 15 years. One employee was talking on the telephone;

one was operating a crane; two employees were inside a small shelter that was struck by lightning; and three were bicyclists standing under a tree.

Visit the National Weather Service web sites Lightning Safety Page to find out more about staying safe.

Be Prepared!!!!!!



LANL R&D 100 Awards

Cutting-edge innovations garnered Los Alamos researchers two of R&D Magazine's prestigious R&D 100 Awards. The awards, which will be presented Oct. 16th in Chicago, recognize the top 100 industrial innovations worldwide in

2008. Winning Laboratory projects are the 3-D Tracking Microscope and Laser-Weave technology.

"This is yet the latest example of how the De-



partment of Energy and our National Laboratories are continuing to demonstrate world-class leadership in innovation, as we enhance our energy security, national security and economic competitiveness," Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said. "On behalf of the Department, I would like to congratulate all of our employees who have earned R&D 100 awards and in particular this year's winners."



Voluntary Early Retirement

The Office of Personnel Management has approved NNSA's request for **Voluntary Early Re-**

tirement Authority (VERA) from October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008. NNSA offers this opportunity to its Federal employees in context with the ongoing campaign to make fundamental and enduring reforms in management and organization structures, and to rightsize and revitalize its Federal workforce. VERA is a

powerful benign tool to help NNSA resolve skills mix, skills gap, and succession planning challenges.

Although there is no closing window for requesting early retirement, eligible employees whose requests are approved must be off NNSA's employment rolls by December 31, 2008.