



Office of River Protection

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
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Roy Schepens

Biography: Roy Schepens Manager, Office of River Protection

Roy Schepens was named Manager of the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection on July 1, 2002. As Manager, he is responsible for the safe storage, retrieval, treatment, and disposal of 53 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste at the Hanford Site. The River Protection Project will build and operate the world's largest radiochemical processing facilities to retrieve and treat Hanford's tank waste and close the tank farms to protect the Columbia River—the nation's largest, most challenging environmental cleanup project.

Mr. Schepens has more than 25 years of nuclear operations experience including Navy, commercial, and DOE facilities. In his positions as senior Department manager, Mr. Schepens was responsible for all aspects of nuclear operations including project management, startup testing, nuclear waste processing, and nuclear safety. He has extensive experience with successful interface and negotiation with external oversight organizations such as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency. Some of Mr. Schepens' most significant accomplishments as a senior Department manager include closure of two 1.3 million gallon high-level waste tanks—the first closures achieved in the DOE complex; and startup and operation of the Defense Waste Processing Facility—the Department's largest new nuclear facility to be placed in operation in the 1990's.

Mr. Schepens' experience at the Savannah River Site included Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste and Assistant Manager for Materials and Facilities Stabilization.

As the Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste he was responsible for all operations, projects, and budget associated with the high-level waste tank farms, including 51 tanks containing more than 34 million gallons of radioactive waste. During his tenure as Assistant Manager for High-Level Waste he successfully directed the startup of the Defense Waste Processing Facility. The facility's vitrification process converts liquid radioactive waste to a glass mixture that is capable of long-term storage.

In his position as the Assistant Manager for Facilities Stabilization he established performance-based incentives to improve processing and stabilization of plutonium and uranium bearing materials. With the incentives the operating contractor significantly enhanced schedules, and major stabilization progress was achieved. During a one-year period more than 500,000 gallons of highly enriched uranium were purified and more than 900 nuclear material items were dissolved and processed in keeping with the Department's nuclear materials stabilization goals.

Mr. Schepens' experience includes positions as Resident Inspector with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Project Manager for the commercial nuclear industry with General Electric Company

Mr. Schepens earned his degree in Marine Engineering from Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine. He and his wife reside in the Tri-Cities, they have three children.