

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Dolline Hatchett/202-586-5806



Thursday, February 6, 2003

Department of Energy Announces a New Office of Legacy Management

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Energy (DOE) has announced plans to establish an Office of Legacy Management that will focus on the long-term care of legacy liabilities of former nuclear weapons production sites following completion of the Environmental Management cleanup effort.

The Office of Legacy Management will have responsibility for sites that have been closed and no longer support the department's ongoing national security, energy and science missions.

Legacy liabilities stem from the activities of the department and predecessor agencies, particularly during World War II and the Cold War. These activities left a legacy of radioactive chemical waste, environmental contamination, and hazardous materials at over 100 sites across the country.

"The establishment of the Office of Legacy Management demonstrates the department's continued commitment to manage sites where active remediation has been completed," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "The establishment of this new office is a significant step to ensuring the long-term protection of human health and the environment."

The office's primary functions will include: management of the land and associated resources as a Federal Trustee, surveillance and maintenance associated with environmental remedies, records and information management, and the management of post-closure liabilities. The sites transferring to the Office of Legacy Management's authority will include: the Office of Environmental Management closure site (Pinellas Plant, Weldon Spring Site), Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) sites, and Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) sites where remediation is complete. As more sites are successfully remediated and closed by EM, the site surveillance and maintenance functions, and worker benefits as appropriate, will be transferred to the new office for long-term management.

Further details and the complete proposed legacy management budget are available via the Internet on the department's homepage at <http://www.energy.gov>
