



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 19, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAROLYN L. HUNTOON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Carolyn L. Huntoon
1-19-01

SUBJECT: Reassignment of the Grand Junction Office from
Albuquerque to Idaho Operations Office

In the wake of significant shifts in the Department's missions and organization, realignment of the reporting responsibility for the Grand Junction Office (GJO) in Colorado is appropriate to ensure that certain field operations continue in the most efficient and well-integrated manner possible. More than a year ago the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Act was enacted into law, directing, among other things, that nine facilities serve national security mission needs and shall report through the newly established NNSA. Many of these designated facilities report through the Albuquerque Operations Office.

The Department has designated the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) as the lead national laboratory for Environmental Management, including science and technology related to long-term stewardship activities. Accordingly, Secretary Richardson recently announced that INEEL would serve as the "lead field site for guiding our Long-Term Stewardship Program."

Long-term stewardship (LTS) is one of the critical, continuing operational missions of the GJO. Because GJO has responsibility for long-term stewardship for the majority of DOE sites where active cleanup has been completed, it makes sense to realign the reporting responsibility of the GJO from the Albuquerque Operations Office (AL) to the Idaho Operations Office (ID). Effective immediately, reporting responsibility of GJO will be to ID with the GJO Manager reporting to the Manager of ID. This decision has been made in consultation with the Deputy Administrator of the NNSA for Defense Programs and the Managers of the Albuquerque and Idaho Operations Offices. I request the ID manager with the GJO manager prepare a transition plan with the AL manager with a goal of completing the transition by March 1, 2001.



With this memo, I am directing ID manager with the GJO manager to work with our Office of Long-term Stewardship (EM-51) and Closure (EM-40) and Project Completion Offices (EM-30), to develop a detailed Memorandum of Agreement establishing clear roles and responsibilities for each office to help work together effectively. This MOA should be developed consistent with the following principles:

1. GJO is to continue its current missions, including LTS operations, cleanup (including activities at the Moab, Utah site, as authorized and funded), and groundwater operations and research.
2. ID shall provide the administrative support to ensure GJO success in its various missions;
3. ID shall coordinate the interface between these field operations and science and technology activities, including identifying needs, and deploying new S&T for LTS

During the preparation of the MOA, consideration will be given and alternatives developed as to the appropriate approach to managing LTS responsibilities for the following:

- LTS for Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program sites;
- LTS for the Weldon Spring site in Missouri;
- Any sites transferred for LTS pursuant to Section 151(b) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, to the extent DOE accepts such responsibility; and
- The Bonus Reactor in Puerto Rico.

To expedite the preparation of the MOA, I am asking EM-51 to take the lead on the development and coordination of the MOA effecting this realignment and to have the MOA completed by March 15, 2001. If you have any questions on this realignment, please contact Dave Geiser in the Office of Long-Term Stewardship at 6-9280 or by email at david.geiser@em.doe.gov.

Attachments

Distribution

Madelyn Creedon, DP-1
John Themelis, AL
Beverly Cook, ID
Donna Bergman-Tabbert, GJO
David Crandall, DP-10
David Beck, DP-20
Dan Berkovitz, EM-10
Jim Fiore, EM-30
Mark Frei, EM-40
Gerald Boyd, EM-50
Dave Geiser, EM-51

cc:

Randall Scott, EM-5
Marvin Garcia, EM-6
David Huizenga, EM-20

**MISSIONS TO REMAIN OR BE OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED TO THE
GRAND JUNCTION OFFICE PENDING TRANSFER TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY- IDAHO**

- Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance (LTSM) Program - This mission should remain with the Grand Junction Office (GJO) as the office has been actively performing the mission for the Department of Energy (DOE) since 1988 and is the recognized leader for DOE in the LTSM area. Nearly 75 percent of these sites are located within driving distance of the GJO site. The LTSM Program and DOE-Idaho's Long-Term Stewardship Science and Development Program would mutually benefit from jointly reporting to the Office of Environmental Management.

Presently Assigned to GJO LTSM Program:

- Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I Sites
- UMTRCA Title II Sites
- Cheney Disposal Site, Long-Term Radon Management
- Decontamination and Decommissioning Sites (orphan sites)
- GJO Site
- Cover Performance Monitoring
- Monticello Millsite and Repository
- Nuclear Waste Policy Act Section (NWPA) 151(c) Site
- Maxey Flats Disposal Site oversight activities
- Pinellas Plant

Sites that should be assigned to GJO LTSM Program:

- Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Project (six sites)
 - Weldon Spring
 - NWPA Section 151(b) Sites (ten sites) [If DOE decides to accept custody of these sites.]
 - Bonus Reactor, Puerto Rico
- Ground-Water Projects:
 - UMTRA Ground Water - This project should remain with GJO as the site has worked effectively with the Navajo, Hopi, Shoshoni, and Arapaho Tribes, States of Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and others. The cost baseline has been reduced by nearly \$400 million since 1995 when the program was moved to Grand Junction.
 - Pinellas Environmental Restoration - This project should remain at GJO because the latest ground-water characterizations and remediation alternatives have been developed by GJO. Additionally, it is expected that all ground-water remedial systems will be in place and operating in the next three years allowing the site to be moved to the LTSM Program.

- Uranium Leasing - Based on the location of the lease tracts and since the program lead has been at the GJO since inception, this effort should remain with GJO. This program is very small and is expected to be complete around 2005.
- Monticello Operable Unit III (Surface and Ground Water) - This project should remain at GJO as all other activities in Monticello have been completed by the GJO and an interim Record of Decision is in place and being executed by GJO. GJO has an excellent working relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Utah.
- Moab Site Remediation - This project was just assigned to GJO. The decision was based on the technical expertise existing at the GJO site and the office's close proximity to the Moab site.
- Laboratory Operations - With the assignment of the Moab project to the GJO office, the existing analytical laboratory has adequate work to remain cost effective for DOE in the near future. Work for other DOE offices continues to grow, and the GJO will review the laboratory's cost effectiveness on a three-year basis.
- Work for Others - This will remain at GJO and work will be performed as assigned and funded. Currently includes:
 - EPA disposal cell cover research
 - Bureau of Land Management abandoned mine reclamation
 - LANDTREK
 - Shattuck Support (EPA)
 - Hanford Vadose Zone Work
 - Rocky Flats
 - Radiological Assistance Program/Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

TRANSITION PLAN AND APPROACHES

- Current DOE-Albuquerque (AL) Support to Continue:
 - Source Evaluation Board (SEB) for GJO Follow-on Contract: AL has established a Source Selection Office, but agreement should be reached on how this procurement action should be proceed. It would be critical that changes to the SEB be transparent for the effort to remain on schedule. DOE-HQ has determined that the existing small business task order contract approach that has worked so effectively with the current contracts should be retained.
 - Finish administration of existing MACTEC-ERS and WASTREN, Incorporated contracts.
 - Moab Support: GJO would continue to request expertise for UMTRA-related tasks which AL personnel have experience in.

- Elements to address in ID transition plan:
 - The proposed makeup of a transition team under the leadership of ID with GJO and AL representation.
 - A review of the scope of work and all current and future programs assigned to GJO to assure that adequate funding will be provided to continue each program(s) as structured. This would include a review for both the execution year and out-year scope and funding levels.
 - The relationship and lines of authority between ID management and the GJO so that GJO may begin reporting directly to ID.
 - The reporting relationship between ID and EM regarding GJO work.
 - A review of the proposed technical and administrative support contracts at GJO to assure that all options have been assessed.
 - A review of the requirements for budgeting, accounting, human resources, procurement, security and other administrative activities to effect a successful transition.
 - A review of the required program direction resources required by ID to successfully assume oversight of both the existing GJO work and newly transferred AL work. Adequate program direction funding will be made available to support this transition.
 - A review of the LTS and groundwater programs at both ID and GJO to ensure that there is no duplication of effort in these areas.
 - An overall review of technical and administrative activities to identify any potential areas for streamlining and enhanced cost effectiveness.
 - A review of all agreements between the GJO, the state, and regulatory bodies. This will include both the current agreements and those being negotiated for sites anticipated to be transferred into GJO in the future.
 - A review of contingent liabilities, environmental liabilities, outstanding claims and pending litigation that will need to be managed through the DOE ID Office.
 - A review of the status of ISM certification.

memorandum

DATE:

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

EM-34 (D. Mathes, 301-903-7222)

SUBJECT:

Reassignment of the Grand Junction Office from Albuquerque to Idaho

TO:

Richard Glass, Manager, Albuquerque Operations Office
Beverly Cook, Manager, Idaho Operations Office

This memorandum designates the Department of Energy-Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) as the DOE office responsible for management of the DOE-Grand Junction Office (GJO). The transition for this change will begin January 15, 2001.

The DOE-Albuquerque Operations Office (AL) has been outstanding in its management of the GJO and its missions. However, we believe it is inevitable that all of DOE-AL will be absorbed by the National Nuclear Security Administration; and therefore it is appropriate for GJO to report to an environmental management (EM) program site. After careful consideration, we have decided that DOE-ID is the logical place. The long-term stewardship (LTS) and ground-water missions of ID and GJO are very complimentary, and ID is located in geographic proximity to Grand Junction.

I recognize that GJO has important continuing missions for DOE. Secretary Richardson and I visited Grand Junction earlier this month, and we both made a commitment to the Grand Junction community that the current missions will remain in Grand Junction.

In addition to this change in GJO reporting reassignment to ID, we are also assigning responsibility for additional sites to the GJO LTS program. This includes Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Project sites, Weldon Spring, and the Bonus Reactor in Puerto Rico. DOE-Headquarters (HQ) will work with the offices currently responsible for these sites to ensure a smooth transition to GJO, including budget targets. The attachment to this memorandum lists the current missions assigned to GJO and these additional sites.

It is important that this transition be effected as efficiently as possible without undue disruption to the operations of either GJO or ID. Therefore, I am asking the ID manager to provide to me as soon as possible ID's initial plan for assuming responsibility for the GJO. The plan should identify all the issues that must be covered to effect such a transfer, including those listed in the attachment.

To effect a smooth transition AL and ID should meet as soon as possible to discuss details and reach agreement on key items including:

- Budget and FTE transfers.
- Roles and responsibilities for the current contract action to select a replacement small business contractor to replace the existing two contracts at GJO that expire June 2001. AL has established a Source Selection Office, but agreement should be reached on how

this procurement action should be proceed. DOE-HQ has determined that the existing small business task order contract approach that has worked so effectively with the current contracts should be retained.

- Administrative responsibilities for completion of the two existing contracts.
- AL technical support to the Moab project based on its extensive Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project experience.
- AL support for completion of the site transfer activities to both the Riverview Technology Corporation (RTC) and the U.S. Army. The RTC transfer is expected to be complete in February 2001 and the Army Transfer is expected to be complete by the end of fiscal year 2001.

I am confident that your offices will, working together, will complete this transfer successfully.

Carolyn L. Huntoon
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Attachment

cc: J. Arthur, III, AL
D. Bergman-Tabbert, AL
D. Mathes, EM-34
J. Lehr, EM-34
J. Fiore, EM-30
G. Boyd, EM-50
M. Frei, EM-40
S. Robison, EM-41

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