



## **Livermore Site Office News**

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### **DOE and EPA Agree To Accelerate Re-start Of Cleanup Facilities at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

Livermore, CA -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have agreed to accelerate the re-start of soil and groundwater treatment facilities at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Selected treatment facilities had been shutdown due to a reduction in the Fiscal Year 2008 Congressional Federal budget appropriation for cleanup at the site.

“We are pleased to have reached an agreement with EPA that focuses our resources on our top cleanup priorities - - protecting the public and cleaning up the site,” said DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Livermore Site Office Manager Alice Williams. “The accelerated re-start will be accomplished through the utilization of a combination of new hires, subcontracting, and overtime.”

When DOE was informed of the budget reduction in 2008, the agency’s priority was to ensure that contaminants in the subsurface would not spread further offsite and that there was no risk to the public during the time that some of the treatment facilities were not operational. Consequently, DOE worked with environmental scientists at LLNL to identify high operating cost facilities on the interior of the site for shutdown. Other interior facilities were allowed to run until they needed to be shutdown due to parts breaking down. The DOE focus was to ensure that treatment facilities on the perimeter of the Laboratory would operate to protect the public and prevent further spread of the contaminated plumes. The strategy was successful because recent sampling showed there was no further spread of the contaminated plumes during this time beyond the perimeter of the Laboratory.

Seventeen facilities are currently operational. The remainder of the treatment facilities in the re-start agreement will be operational by December 31, 2009. DOE and EPA have also agreed to re-evaluate the cleanup in areas where it is no longer effective and will involve state regulatory agencies and community stakeholders in the decision-making process. As part of the agreement reached during informal dispute resolution, DOE will pay EPA \$165,000.

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Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. DOE responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear science in the nation's national security enterprise. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing; reduces the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad. Visit [www.nnsa.energy.gov](http://www.nnsa.energy.gov) for more information.