

**The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Hearing on the Budget for the Department of Energy's  
Office of Environmental Management  
March 19, 2013  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Good morning, everyone. We have before us today David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management to the Secretary of Energy. We welcome you back to the Subcommittee. Leading a program that is fraught with such daunting technical, management and regulatory challenges is no easy task. We appreciate the work you've done over the last two years and we look forward to your testimony.

The reductions in the fiscal year 2013 President's Budget Request for the Office of Environmental Management are now being compounded by sequestration. Many people are bracing for news on what the actual site impacts will be, and I am particularly worried about the impacts to jobs and small businesses. I hope in this hearing, you can provide some clarity on what to expect.

This Committee has worked hard to return to regular order, but it looks like we are facing a full-year Continuing Resolution. In addition, the fiscal year 2014 budget request is more than a month late. I'm told we may not see it until well into April, and this will make it exceedingly difficult to write our bills in time to avoid another Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 2014. That means that any relief that legislation can provide to alleviate some of the imbalances across site activities will most likely be beyond our grasp for at least another six months.

While we could easily become absorbed in the funding challenges of the next six months, there are also a number of long term challenges. The announcement that six more tanks at Hanford could be leaking has everyone concerned, not just because of the continued risk posed by the millions of gallons of dangerous radioactive liquid waste being stored there in aging underground tanks. This news is also disturbing because we recognize that the timeframe to deal with this waste promises to be long, the options we have are limited, and the potential solutions are riddled with technical complications.

Hanford is not the only cleanup site where the Department is struggling to make progress. The Department of Energy has made too many cleanup commitments that it will not be able to keep and your ability to meet milestones will be weighed down further by failures in the past to deliver projects on time and on budget. We will investigate this problem in depth tomorrow during our hearing on the Department's Major Construction Projects.

Please ensure that the hearing record, responses to the questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to us no later than four weeks from time you receive them. I also ask that if Members have additional

questions they would like to submit to the Subcommittee for the record, that they please do so by 5:00 PM tomorrow.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Ms. Kaptur, for any opening comments that she would like to make.

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