



## **Chairman Mike Simpson**

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and  
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

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### **Budget Hearing on Environmental Management Programs**

**FY 2017 Budget**

**March 15, 2016**

### **Opening Statement As Prepared**

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I'd like to call this hearing to order. Good morning, everyone.

I'd like to welcome Dr. Monica Regalbuto to her first appearance before this Subcommittee. This is the first time since March of 2011 that we've had a Senate-confirmed Assistance Secretary for Environmental Management testify before the Subcommittee. We look forward to your testimony today and to hearing more about your plans to lead the environmental cleanup program through its many challenges.

The purpose of today's hearing is to discuss the President's Budget Request for the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management. That request totals \$5.4 billion, a reduction of \$773 million below fiscal year 2016. Instead of requesting enough funding to keep all of the cleanup sites operating, the Administration has proposed to shift spending for the cleanup of Paducah, Portsmouth, and Oak Ridge to mandatory accounts. The Department includes these mandatory funds in their budget totals but they are not the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee. Rather, this proposal to expand the authority of the USEC Privatization Fund is ultimately under the purview of the authorizing committees. This budgeting gimmick allowed the Administration to push to the side the cost of these cleanup activities and use that money for some other initiative that they wanted to highlight. This is simply irresponsible and risks hundreds if not thousands of cleanup jobs.

Once again, it will be the work of this Subcommittee to put forth a responsible funding plan that will keep these and other programs at the Department of Energy functioning.

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 the time you receive them. I also ask Members to submit any additional questions for the record to the Subcommittee by close of business 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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