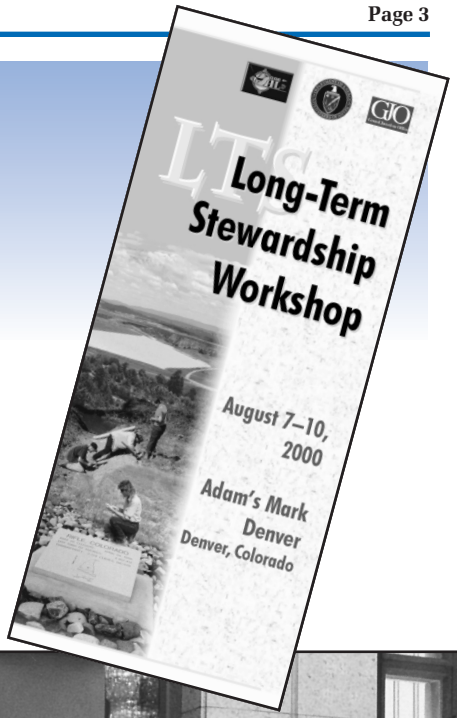
Third Annual Long-Term Stewardship Workshop Most Successful Yet



The U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office (DOE–GJO), the DOE Albuquerque Operations Office, and the DOE Headquarters Office of Long-Term Stewardship hosted the third annual Long-Term Stewardship Workshop August 7 through 10, 2000, at the Adam's Mark hotel in Denver, Colorado.

More than 200 registrants attended this year's event, with representatives from DOE Headquarters and Field Offices, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, states, foreign countries, private industry, universities, public stakeholder groups, and contractors and consultants with professional interests in the subject matter.

Long-term stewardship includes activities necessary to protect human health and the environment following cleanup and disposal of nuclear and chemical materials. The workshop consisted of eight sessions with session chairpersons and presenters who addressed a wide range of long-term stewardship subjects, followed by interactive panel discussions.

Jim Werner (left at lectern), DOE Headquarters Office of Long-Term Stewardship, and Dr. Carolyn Huntoon, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, address workshop participants at the luncheon.

Session Topics

DOE stewardship policy initiatives and related matters were presented and discussed in the opening sessions. The legal challenges associated with the implementation of effective institutional controls were highlighted in a subsequent session and discussed by speakers from offices of state attorneys general, legal consultants, and other implementing federal agencies.

Other sessions covered challenges of long-term information management, technology needs, application of technology, stakeholder involvement, and concerns regarding stewardship implementation. During the daylong breakout session on Science and Technology, workshop attendees listened to the first public presentation of the results of the National Academy of Sciences–National Research Council Study on Long-Term Institutional Management of DOE Legacy Waste Sites. This report may influence the overall direction of DOE's long-term stewardship program.

The final day featured commercial and international site remedial actions and stewardship challenges. GJO will become the long-term steward for a significant number of commercial sites following completion of reclamation at those sites.

Guest Speakers

Guest speaker Stewart Brand from the Long Now Foundation warned the audience about the "mind-numbing bandits" that too often set the tone of discussions on

U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (top photo) and Congressman Mark Udall (bottom photo) of Colorado were two of the guest speakers at the workshop luncheon.

long-term stewardship. He challenged everyone to create a program that people will look at 50 to 100 years from now and say, "That's the way to run a culture."

The highlight of the workshop was a luncheon attended by 160 participants that featured guest speakers U.S. Senator Wayne Allard of Colorado, Congressman Mark Udall of Colorado, and DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Dr. Carolyn Huntoon. As Jim Werner, Director of the DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship, pointed out, "You can tell how important your workshop subject has become by the caliber of the guest speakers who are willing to attend."

Long-term stewardship is now on the radar screen of the U.S. Congress. Senator Allard and Congressman Udall both have strong interests in preserving the environment for the long term and have demonstrated their commitments in the numerous committees on which they sit. Each gentleman mentioned a bipartisan bill that they are jointly introducing in Congress to set aside the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (located near Denver) as a permanent wildlife preserve.

Dr. Huntoon said by the year 2006, more than 350,000 acres of land will be in long-term stewardship. The DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship was created a year ago. Dr. Huntoon has six goals in mind for this office:

- To manage long-term stewardship as a project with a defined end state that is to be achieved.
- To develop a cadre of DOE staff and contractors to perform the scope of work.
- To emphasize worker safety.
- To systematize what technical work will be performed.
- To enhance stakeholder involvement, such as has been done in Colorado.
- To be prepared for new work coming DOE's way.

Dr. Huntoon gave high praise to GJO when she said that GJO is "one of the most cost-effective offices in the entire DOE complex, with a well-trained, motivated workforce."

Other Workshop Activities

Many participants took advantage of a Colorado pastime by attending a Rockies baseball game one evening against the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Rockies won, in true Colorado fashion.

The workshop culminated with an optional field trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Area. The Arsenal is a former chemical weapons and pesticide plant that will become the largest urban national wildlife refuge upon completion of the environmental cleanup program at this site. Bobby Templin and Scott Perkins of Argonne National Laboratory led the guided bus tour that addressed cleanup of the site, the landfill cover design, partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and future uses of the facility. Numerous species of wildlife, including mule and white-tailed deer, rabbits, prairie dogs, and great blue herons appeared along the tour route.

Workshop participants toured the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Area that was formerly a chemical weapons and pesticide plant.

Praise for Workshop

Overall, the workshop was well received by participants who indicated their anticipation at attending future Long-Term Stewardship Workshops. GJO received high marks from the attendees on the quality and organization of the workshop. Consequently, it can be assumed that DOE–GJO will be coordinating the fourth annual Long-Term Stewardship Workshop in 2001.

"GJO feels that this workshop was very successful in confirming the capability and credibility of this office as the DOE complex leader in long-term stewardship practical experience and applications," said GJO Manager Donna Bergman-Tabbert.

DOE–GJO Stewardship Program

DOE–GJO manages the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program, which currently has stewardship responsibility for 27 sites that contain regulated low-level radioactive materials. For each site, the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program ensures that on-site contaminated materials remain isolated from the environment, that the safety of the public and the environment is maintained, and that all applicable regulations are met.

More information about the Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Program is available on the DOE–GJO website at **www.doegjpo.com/programs/ltsm/**. Information about the DOE Office of Long-Term Stewardship is available on the DOE Headquarters website at **http://lts.apps.em.doe.gov**.❖