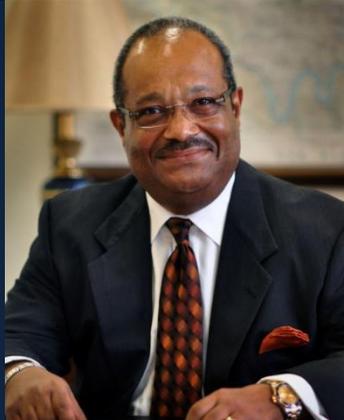


Kelly's Corner



Progress is being made – Help is on the way

The Oak Ridge Office has operated with many vacancies over the past several years, which have had impacts that started to influence our ability to meet our mission and get our work done. We received authorization and moved forward in filling some of the vacancies so *help is on the way*.

The Human Resources staff has put forth an exceptional effort to get 24 of the 26 vacancies filled in a 60-day period. We tried to get as many as possible filled before the sequestration because we did not know what impacts the cuts would have on our ability to hire.

Of the 26 vacancies we received authorization to fill – 26 have been posted, two cancelled, two new staff hires are on board, five internal selections made that resulted in promotions, 12 additional employees have accepted offers and are scheduled to come on board between March and July, two selections pending reference checks before actual offers are made, one position with interviews ongoing, and two selections pending Headquarters and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approval.

Also, we have had some key management positions vacant for more than two years and I am pleased to announce that I have filled the deputy manager position. Kevin Hall, the federal project director of the MOX Project at the Savannah River Site, has been selected. Kevin will report to Oak Ridge on April 22 to assume his duties.

I have also completed interviews for the assistant manager for Administration and assistant manager for Safety and Technical Services positions and have made my selections. However, approvals for these senior manager positions must take a different route and go through several offices at headquarters and OPM before they can be announced.

So, you can see, progress is being made. I want to commend the Human Resources organization for all the extra work, overtime, and dedication for making this all happen in a very short period. As I have said in the past, *we can* and *we do*. Thank you, I am very proud of our employees.

Larry Kelly

“Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all.”

~William Faulkner

Kelly's Corner



An Update on the Potential Sequester

As everyone is aware, sequestration is scheduled to take effect today. We are relying on headquarters for guidance, and yesterday the deputy secretary sent a DOECAST to federal employees. There has been a lot of discussion in the press about the potential for layoffs or furloughs, but as you read in the message yesterday afternoon, the Department doesn't anticipate an impact on our employees, however our colleagues at NNSA and the Office of Human Capital may be forced to implement a mandatory furlough of federal employees within in their organizations. We will keep you apprised of additional information we receive. I have included the message from the deputy secretary below.

Dear Federal Employees:

In previous correspondence, I have updated you on our preparation for the possible impact of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (also known as "sequestration") on the Department. As it now appears that sequestration will become reality on March 1, 2013, I would like to provide you an update of our efforts to minimize the effects on our mission and workforce.

Over the last few weeks, we have thoroughly reviewed all expenditures and used a variety of tools to reduce our costs to meet the challenges of the across-the-board spending cuts of the sequestration. All parts of spending have been evaluated for cost saving measures, including operational and administrative costs (training, facilities, supplies, etc.), contracts, grants, and other forms of expenditures. We have done our very best to offset costs to avoid any severe impact to our mission, the American public, and our employees, but the nature of the cuts – spread evenly across over 225 funding lines in the Department – has severely limited our flexibility to prioritize activities or lessen the impact of cuts.

Unfortunately, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer may be forced to implement a mandatory furlough of Federal employees within their organizations. Should that become necessary, these organizations will provide affected employees with a 30 day proposed furlough notice.



In addition, the appropriate union will be contacted to discuss the implementation of the furloughs. We have not given up hope that we can avert the furloughs for these two offices and are investigating other processes to mitigate the impact.

We also understand that DOE contractors may need to take significant employment actions across the complex as a result of funding cuts. The specific impacts will depend upon those contractors' decisions, but we expect that thousands of contractor employees will likely be affected through work hour reductions or layoffs unless the sequester is remedied.

I regret that at this time, we have Federal employees and contractor employees who will be negatively affected by the sequestration. We will make every effort possible to prevent severe impacts to the mission and furloughs for our workforce. Thank you for your understanding during these unsettled times, and for your continuing efforts to ensure we provide the highest level of service to our country.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel B. Poneman,
Deputy Secretary

Kelly's Corner



Federal Building Update

The GSA abatement phase of the project is complete. Final clearance test results were provided to the DOE this week. GSA has agreed to allow us limited access to the building effective March 1 for simultaneous construction tasks and building egress.

The tentative ORO move schedule is detailed below; however, ORO received notice this week that GSA anticipates being ready to start occupancy April 1. ORO management has to assess the impact of a 2-month expedite to the schedule.

If schedules are expedited, it should follow this general flow.

- Vacate 545 – May 28 to July 8
- Move EM to FB – July 9 to July 26
- Vacate OSTI – July 29 to August 5
- Move NE to FB – August 5 to August 7
- Move OS – August 9 to August 16
- Move IG to 2714 – August 19 to August 30
- Move Remainder to FB – September 3 to 6
- Move STS to 2714 – September 16 to 27

Space occupancy plans have been given to Human Resources for union review. Once this review is complete, the established space assignment process can begin. Final move schedules cannot be prepared until this process is completed and decisions are made regarding the expedite request.