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Chairwoman Fischer, Ranking Member King and Members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to appear before you today to represent the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM).

EM's mission represents the government's strong commitment to cleaning up the environmental legacy of national defense programs that helped end World War II and win the Cold War. The EM program was born out of the Manhattan Project – a massive effort that leveraged the best of American industry, American science and American ingenuity to harness nuclear energy for the security of our country, and the world.

Since then, EM has been entrusted with the largest environmental cleanup effort in the world. With work completed at 92 sites, EM is performing cleanup activities at the remaining 14 active sites, as well as operating a geologic disposal facility in New Mexico.

In addition to supporting this ongoing work, the Trump Administration is now unleashing the next Manhattan Project – an effort similar in scope and scale aimed at creating affordable reliable American energy and winning the global Artificial Intelligence race. EM's critical mission not only addresses the legacy of the past but also contributes to this golden era of American energy dominance, driving innovation and enabling national security missions.

Our budget is a fiscally responsible budget that reflects the Trump Administration's strong commitment to safely advancing the EM mission as legacy waste is addressed and liabilities are transformed into opportunities for U.S. security, U.S. energy and U.S. jobs.

Delivering Safe and Effective Results

Enabled by the significant investments Congress has made in the program, EM is leveraging the best of American industry to safely and effectively meet the federal government's legal responsibility to address the environmental legacy of past nuclear weapons programs and nuclear energy research while ensuring taxpayer resources are allocated appropriately and cost-effectively.

Tank waste treatment capabilities are in place to address the radioactive tank waste that drives EM's costs and risks. Over 11 million gallons of tank waste has been treated at the Savannah River Site via the Salt Waste Processing Facility and EM expects to ramp up the processing rate further in FY2026. The Integrated Waste Treatment Unit has treated over 279,000 gallons of tank waste in Idaho. EM has also treated over 800,000 gallons of radioactive and chemical waste from large underground tanks at the Hanford Site where the Direct Feed Low Activity Waste system is on track to begin converting this waste into glass later this year.

EM progress extends well beyond the tank waste mission. Demolition efforts across EM continue and as old buildings come down, new opportunities are built up to meet American energy, economic development, scientific research, and national security priorities.

During the first Trump Administration, EM removed an entire enrichment complex at the Oak Ridge Site. That accomplishment, and the work since is helping modernize one of the nation's most important national security sites and opening land for next-generation nuclear companies. What was once a massive gaseous diffusion plant used for nuclear weapons production during the Manhattan Project is now a hub for America's advanced nuclear industry. This year alone EM has transferred more than 50 acres of cleaned land at the East Tennessee Technology Park to the community for economic reuse, building on the more than 1,800 acres that have already been transferred. EM is scheduled to transfer another parcel that will be home to a nuclear company that intends to make the largest investment in Tennessee's history.

In addition to unleashing commercial nuclear innovation, this progress has led to a significant increase in ongoing demolition work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex that is freeing up future mission capabilities for the Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration, respectively.

Key demolition work also continues at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York. Demolition of the Main Plant Processing Building is over 90 percent complete and set to wrap up this summer. A project 20 years in the making, successful demolition further reduces environmental risks and positions the site for the next phase in cleanup.

EM continues to focus on the safe, secure and successful completion of the cleanup mission at the Nevada National Security Site and remains on track to complete that work over the next five years. EM continues to reduce the overall cleanup footprint in Nevada as demolition work progresses at facilities that supported development and testing of nuclear rocket engines during the Cold War. Work continues on closure of the remaining contaminated groundwater area, Pahute Mesa, where drilling will begin later this year. EM's mission in Nevada also provides safe and secure disposal for low-level radioactive waste generated by cleanup, science, and national defense missions across the DOE complex.

Additional cleanup priorities continue to advance, including shipping transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico from Idaho and the Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as other generator sites, executing key risk reduction work, progressing skyline changes across the EM complex, and ramping up efforts to tackle tank waste while enabling DOE's American energy, national security and scientific innovation missions.

Enabling National Security Missions

As cleanup priorities progress across the complex, EM is enabling national security priorities. In recognition of the role the Savannah River Site will play in the National Nuclear Security Administration's pit production mission, site management responsibilities have been successfully transferred to the National Nuclear Security Administration as EM remains focused on completing the remaining legacy cleanup activities at the site. This transfer of responsibility for the Savannah River Site to NNSA is reflected in the FY2026 budget proposal for EM. The budget proposes a $389 million decrease for EM relative to FY 2025 enacted, roughly half of which reflects the transfer of responsibility for the Savannah River Site to NNSA where plutonium pit production capabilities will be developed.

EM progress in Tennessee is playing a crucial role in DOE's ability to modernize America's nuclear stockpile. Demolition work on the south side of the Alpha-2 Building was recently completed and represents another step towards removing an aging contaminated structure, enabling modernization, and opening space to support important national security missions. EM will continue building on this cleanup momentum through smart sequencing of demolition work at high-risk excess facilities at both the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This steady progress is a part of a broader vision focused not only on cleaning up the past but also advancing national security missions into the future. As such, EM collaborates with the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Science to achieve optimal sequencing of work to best meet both cleanup commitments, as well as broader national priorities.

EM is equally focused on ensuring existing capabilities like the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant are well positioned to support DOE missions for years to come. This Spring, construction was completed on a massive new ventilation system at WIPP. Set to begin operations later this year, the Safety Significant Containment Ventilation System is a critical update to a facility that, as the nation's only geologic repository for transuranic waste, supports not only ongoing cleanup activities but also other DOE national security and scientific missions.

Through a unique partnership, EM's highly trained and efficient workforce is achieving safe decommissioning and demolition work for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. This work will allow Naval Reactors to allocate more of their future resources towards their core missions that are in service of the safety and security of our Nation and is providing a considerable cost savings for American taxpayers.

Driving Efficiency and Innovation

EM is committed to continuous improvement and maximizing the use of every dollar with which the program is entrusted. As the cleanup mission is executed, EM is looking at ways to drive down overall lifecycle costs at sites in ways that meet cleanup commitments more efficiently and deliver value for the American taxpayer. EM will do this while continuing its track record of safe performance. These efforts include working collaboratively with regulators on common-sense solutions, developing and deploying innovative technologies, and analyzing cleanup approaches with the potential to accelerate the mission.

With a mission estimated to last decades and cost hundreds of billions, the Hanford tank waste mission represents EM's biggest opportunity to drive innovation and efficiency. As EM prepares

to begin operating Hanford's low-activity tank waste vitrification capabilities, work continues to analyze additional options for safely and efficiently treating low-activity waste with the potential to accelerate the mission. As part of the just completed Test Bed Initiative, 2,000 gallons of radioactive tank waste was treated by removing more than 99 percent of radioactivity and safely shipped to commercial facilities in Texas and Utah for grouting and permanent disposal. This approach has the potential to accelerate cleanup of nuclear waste at Hanford and reduce overall costs by billions without sacrificing safety or effectiveness. Enabling a path to grout for Hanford tank waste is also responsive to recommendations from the National Academies of Science, the General Accountability Office, Congress, and others.

The expertise of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and the Network of National Laboratories for Environmental Management and Stewardship are being leveraged to develop and inform innovative solutions to address complex environmental cleanup, long-term stewardship and nuclear security issues throughout EM, the Office of Legacy Management and NNSA missions.

SRNL also plays a leading role in the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative. This facility, which broke ground under the first Trump Administration, is set to open this Summer and will serve as an economic driver – creating jobs, spurring innovation and maximizing the reach of industry in South Carolina.

Conclusion

The FY26 budget request reflects the Trump Administration's strong support for EM's vital mission and meeting federal cleanup commitments safely and efficiently. As the mission is carried out, EM is committed to continuous improvement and making further advancements to ensure that cleanup activities are conducted in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner.

EM will work with Congress as efforts to maintain safe and steady cleanup progress, maximize opportunities to transform liabilities into assets through the beneficial reuse of land and materials, and advance of national security and American energy priorities continue.