

Subject: ASO News – December 7, 2012

**Office of Science awards the Batteries and Energy Storage Hub to Argonne’s Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR)** – On November 30, 2012, the University of Chicago held a press conference to announce SC’s recent selection. Guest speakers included Secretary Chu, UChicago President Robert Zimmer, Lab Director Eric Isaacs, Illinois Governor Quinn, and Chicago’s Mayor Rham Emanuel. ASO Manager was in attendance. The planned JCESR facility is to be built at Argonne with \$35M, to be provided by the State of Illinois. The link immediately below provides a brief recap of last Friday’s press conference by ABC’s local Chicago affiliate.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8904415>

**SC Lehman Review to Evaluate CD-2 Preparedness for APS-U:** SC’s Review Team met at Argonne on December 4-6, 2012 to evaluate CD-2 readiness for the APS Upgrade Project. The Review Team, which provided a closeout briefing on December 6<sup>th</sup>, uniformly recommended that the project proceed to CD-2, while offering a number of value added recommendations to ASO and Argonne. Ron Lutha (SC-CH) and Frank Gines (ASO), as Federal Project Director (FPD) and Deputy respectively, provided FPD perspectives to the Review Team.

**Energy Sciences Building (ESB):** Construction recently surpassed 70% completion. Outside the building, multiple activities are nearing completion, including the retention pond; concrete slabs, sidewalks and planters; earth work; pavement of parking areas; and underground steam supply and condensate return lines. Within the building, piping, ductwork, plumbing and electrical are each in excess of 70% complete; the metal studs and drywall are in excess of 80% complete; the suspended ceiling grids are more than 15% complete; and building enclosure (comprised of metal stud framing; sheathing; curtain wall framing; glass/glazing; metal siding; and roofing) is in excess of 90% complete. While a few elements of the enclosure have not yet been completed, the building is water tight and temporarily heated, using portable gas fired heaters. In the penthouse equipment room, a major effort is underway to install the HVAC systems, with activation of these systems is still expected by the end of December. Completion of electrical power systems for the penthouse equipment is also expected before the end of December. Substantial completion of the entire building is targeted for early May, 2013. Attention to safety continues to be at the top of all tasks and no work is performed without a comprehensive examination of potential hazards and a determination on how to perform that work safely. Thus, consistent application of this policy resulted in well over 240,000 labor hours of work to date without a serious injury.

**11,000<sup>th</sup> shipment at WIPP:** On November 20, 2012, DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) received its 11,000th shipment. This particular shipment symbolically originated at Argonne. As has been previously reported, FY2012 WIPP shipments from Argonne exceeded shipments from all other DOE sites combined.

<http://www.wipp.energy.gov/TeamWorks/index.htm>

**ASO Retirement:** Andrew Gabel (ASO) retired from federal service on November 30, 2012. Drew had previously spent 21 years with DOE, primarily supporting the Environmental clean-up mission at the Argonne site. Drew was particularly instrumental in opening pathways with the Carlsbad Field Office for the disposition of both Contact (CH) and Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) waste to DOE’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. The news item above can in no short order be attributable to Drew Gabel and his many mission contributions to the Office of Science and Argonne National Laboratory.