

year. Jaczko has a PhD in particle physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A much less controversial appointment to the NRC was Peter Lyons, the long-time science adviser to Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM). Domenici is a strong advocate of Yucca Mountain. As part of the deal that got Jaczko on the NRC, Lyons is also appointed for only a two-year term but has no restrictions on voting on Yucca-related issues. Lyons, who worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1969 to 1996, has a PhD in nuclear astrophysics from Caltech. JLD

Hawaii shines for solar scope. Haleakala is the favored site for the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST), a \$161 million project spearheaded by the US National Solar Observatory (NSO).

The site, 3 km high atop the Hawaiian island of Maui, emerged as the frontrunner after more than two years of testing six sites around the world for clear daytime skies and low levels of atmospheric turbulence, humidity, sky brightness, dust, and aircraft contrails. "The major goals of observing and understanding magnetic fields at their fundamental spatial

scales and all heights in the solar atmosphere are best fulfilled in Haleakala," says NSO Director Stephen Keil. At 4 m in diameter, the ATST will be the world's largest solar telescope. It will have a resolution of 0.03 arcsecond—or about 20 km on the Sun's surface.

Assuming that environmental, cultural, cost, and other studies permit the project to proceed on Haleakala—which is already home to the University of Hawaii's Mees Solar Observatory—construction on the ATST could begin in 2007, and the telescope could be working by 2012.

The biggest hurdles for the ATST, says Keil, "include cementing funding commitments from partners and obtaining a strong ranking in the MREFC [NSF's major research equipment and facilities construction] queue. Given the budgetary atmosphere in [Washington] DC and at NSF in particular, this may be a challenge." TF

New head for NREL. Dan Arvizu, a long-time Sandia National Laboratories researcher in solar energy and other alternative energy fields, has been named the new director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. Arvizu moves to

the NREL job from CH2M Hill, a Colorado-based multinational construction and engineering company.

"Dan is well known around the Department of Energy as someone who understands energy technology. Not just renewable energy, but nuclear and fossil energy as well," said David Gorman, DOE's assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Arvizu, who has a PhD in mechanical engineering, began his career with Bell Labs in Denver in 1973, and then transferred to Sandia's solar energy division in 1977. AT&T, parent of Bell Labs, operated Sandia at the time.

In 1992, Arvizu became director of Sandia's advanced energy technology and policy center and in 1996 was named director of the lab's materials and process science center. In 1998, he moved to CH2M Hill.

"Renewable energy has a significant role to play; not the only role, but a significant one," Arvizu said after his appointment in early January. "I plan to strengthen the role of the laboratory in providing credible technology solutions that are viable in the marketplace." Arvizu succeeds former astronaut and NASA administrator Richard Truly, who was NREL's director for seven years. JLD ■

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