

Energy Secretary Visits Lab

Meets Employees, Tours TFTR, Talks with Staff, Answers Tough Questions

With wit and candor, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary laid it on the line to PPPL employees.

Scientists — including those at the Laboratory — must educate the public about their endeavors if they expect continued funding for their projects, O'Leary said, softening her message by pledging her commitment to PPPL's "wonderful quest."

"Present the future to the public that says this [fusion energy] is one of the opportunities for clean, safe, reliable, and (we need to prove) economic sources of energy, and go sell it," O'Leary said, hailing the Lab's success in December in producing a world record in fusion energy. "Point to the fact that when we get into the 21st Century, our [energy] options are not on the table."

The Energy Secretary, who spoke during a visit to the Laboratory earlier this month, said government officials will not approve funding for scientific projects without public backing.

Use Common Language

O'Leary said the significance of "big science," including the PPPL project, must be unfolded in a language common to the public, policy makers, and scientists. The three

sectors must work together to develop a science program.

"We have to engage the imagination of the American public over this and other big science. Keep them engaged and somehow keep the Congress on track at a time when something else will get in the way," said the Energy Secretary during her first-time visit to the Laboratory.

The DOE Head criticized the way Department officials — and the scientific community — talk in "alphabets" and use obscure language in dealing with the media, a link to the public.

"They express themselves in acronyms and numbers and alphabets with hyphens... and one has to read for lines and lines to find a verb," she explained. "Then they [the public] think we think they're not bright enough."

She added that when things really go bad, scientists seeking funding parade a Nobel Laureate through



Director Ronald Davidson (left) and University President Harold Shapiro (center) greet Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary upon her arrival at PPPL.

Continued on page 2

O'Leary Visit

Continued from page 1

the halls of Congress, often with a dozen schoolchildren in tow, and, "sometimes we get projects funded." The top Energy official noted that elected officials think in the short term and spend much time fund raising for re-election.

"In your business and my business, we're talking about the long term," O'Leary added, saying that Congress has begun to ask what basic science delivers and when, and must be convinced that an investment of 20 or 40 years makes sense. "People like you and me need to build on the understanding and appreciation for what we're doing."

The Energy Secretary said she was pleased to see a sign up at PPPL about "Science on Saturdays," which is a positive step toward educating the public.

Secretary Backs Lab

Secretary O'Leary stressed her backing of the Laboratory, noting that fusion energy is one of the



Secretary O'Leary shakes hands with Todd Traina. The Secretary made a point to shake hands and talk with employees as she moved about the Laboratory.

diverse sources that needs further development.

"I'm committed to this project and I'm also committed to big science. And I'm committed to ensuring that you have a future here because I believe the future here is not yours. It's the future of the nation and also the future of the world," she said.

During a question-and-answer session, O'Leary tried to reassure

Laboratory employees in this time of dwindling budgets and layoffs. She said people working for and with the DOE are taking a smaller "hit" compared to others such as the Defense Department, but conceded that those at the Laboratory are not

"I was struck by how much she looked at the Laboratory as a workplace for people rather than just a scientific site. She seemed very interested in meeting and talking with people who worked at the Lab."

— Rush Holt

assured of having the same jobs next year as they have now.

"If it makes you feel any better, I know clearly I'll be looking for a new job in three years, and maybe



Secretary O'Leary talks with staff and answers tough questions during her day-long visit to the Laboratory.

Continued on page 3

O'Leary Visit

Continued from page 2

sooner," the Energy Secretary added.

Noting that PPPL's project is one of the DOE's top priorities, she encouraged PPPL to take advantage of the good news — the recent success of TFTR — to educate the public and policy makers, and to advance dialogue with them.

"We're now at the point where we're riding on the crest of this wonderful wave and bough of excitement. I think we need to lay our plans," O'Leary said.

When she arrived, Secretary O'Leary was greeted by a bevy of PPPL employees, the media, PPPL Director Ronald Davidson, Princeton University President Harold Shapiro, and University Provost Stephen M. Goldfeld. She expressed disappointment over missing a planned stop at the P.J. Hill School

in Trenton. The school had been closed the day of O'Leary's visit because of a snow storm, cancelling a science education workshop for elementary and middle school teachers conducted as part of the partner-

the DOE's Office of Energy Research, announced the DOE Distinguished Associate Award recipients, who include Deputy Director Meade, James Anderson, and James Sinnis (see accompanying story,

"She reaches out and touches people, and it seems to come quite naturally to her."

— Milton Johnson

ship between PPPL and the Trenton City school system.

Prior to speaking, the Energy Secretary took a 30-minute tour of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) led by PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade.

"She seemed genuinely interested in the TFTR and asked good questions about how TFTR works," recalled Meade, noting it was the Energy Secretary's first visit to a tokamak.

After the question-and-answer session, Martha Krebs, Director of

page 4). O'Leary shook hands with Meade and Anderson as they were handed the awards. A third citation was left for Sinnis, who was unavailable for the presentation.

Then the tables were turned, and O'Leary became the recipient of a memento from PPPL when Dr. Davidson presented her with a framed color photograph of TFTR. The DOE Head chuckled when she spoke of getting rid of the photographs of battleships in her office left behind by the previous Energy Secretary. "I really need some great pictures of some of our current successes, and so it is with a great deal of pride that I will have this in place of a battleship."

Staff Comments on O'Leary

Dr. Davidson, who had invited the Energy Secretary to the Laboratory, described the visit as an "extraordinary event."

"Secretary O'Leary is very dynamic and engaging. She is committed to producing change in the DOE and its laboratories—changes that will make the entire complex more responsive to societal needs," said Davidson. "The public, the policy makers and the scientific community must work together to establish national priorities in science and technology."

Continued on page 4



When PPPL Director Davidson presented Secretary O'Leary with a framed photo of TFTR, O'Leary chuckled and, referring to her predecessor's preference for photos of naval ships, said, "I really need some great pictures of some of our current successes, and so it is with a great deal of pride that I will have this in place of a battleship."

O'Leary Visit

Continued from page 3

Added Deputy Director Meade, "We were pleased at all the words of strong support she gave for fusion, and we hope that those end up getting translated into solid budgets."

Those who came in contact with the Energy Secretary at PPPL described her as "straightforward," "friendly," and "positive" — a person who "reaches out."

Said PPPL Assistant Director Rush Holt, "I was struck by how much she looked at the Laboratory as a workplace for people rather than just a scientific site. She seemed very inter-

ested in meeting and talking with people who worked at the Lab. After she shook hands with Princeton University President Harold Shapiro and PPPL Director Davidson, she immediately went to shake hands with PPPL staff."

Added Dr. Milton Johnson, Manager of the DOE's Princeton Area Office, "She reaches out and touches people, and it seems to come

quite naturally to her." Johnson, who accompanied O'Leary to and from the train station, said the Energy Secretary seemed to enjoy her visit to the Laboratory. "We are one of the successes over the last few years. She was very positive in her view on the way back to the train and expressed pleasure about being here," he said.

Johnson called the Energy Secretary's response to an employee's question on salaries and jobs "straightforward." "She wasn't going to say she would go to Washington and fix it. She said not all of us would have the same job next year as this year, but she would try to muster the forces within the Department of Energy to help us make that transition in a positive manner," Johnson said.



See page 7 for a photo collage of Secretary O'Leary's day-long visit to PPPL.

Anderson, Meade, Sinnis Recognized by DOE

Distinguished Awards Presented by Krebs

Princeton Area Office officials were unsure if the carefully boxed plaques would arrive in time for the presentation. The forecast warned of snow and, by the beginning of March, most New Jerseyites believed in such weather predictions.

Despite the wintry day, the Department of Energy (DOE) Distinguished Associate Awards honoring PPPL Deputy Director Dr. Dale M. Meade, Dr. James Sinnis,

Project Engineering Head for the Tokamak Physics Experiment (TPX), and Dr. James L. Anderson, Head of the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor (TFTR) Tritium Systems Division, were delivered to the Laboratory in time for Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's visit on Thursday, March 3.

"They showed up at about 11 a.m.," recalled Dr. Milton D. Johnson, Manager of the Depart-

ment of Energy's Princeton Area Office. The citations laud the "personal and professional achievements in fusion research" of Meade, Sinnis, and Anderson. Meade and Sinnis are PPPL employees while Anderson has been "on loan" from DOE's Los Alamos National Laboratory for more than a year.

Meade and Anderson received the plaques following the Energy

Continued on page 5

Distinguished Awards

Continued from page 4

Secretary's afternoon speech at the Laboratory. Dr. Martha A. Krebs, Director of the DOE Office of Energy Research, and Johnson, who had been asked to get the awards to O'Leary, were on hand for the presentation. Sinnis was presented with his by David Goldman, the Deputy Manager of the Chicago Operations Office, the following day at the closeout of the business systems review of TPX.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the DOE team represented by these three, who have so greatly contributed to the success of PPPL and TFTR."

— Milton Johnson

"I am extremely pleased by the well-deserved recognition that these individuals have received for their extraordinary contributions to the TFTR Project and the development of fusion energy over the years," said PPPL Director Ronald Davidson. "They are highly deserving of this prestigious award, and these awards reflect well on the contributions of the entire Laboratory staff."

The DOE Distinguished Associate Award recognizes the outstanding individual efforts or achievements of DOE contractor employees, and the relationship of the individual's performance to one or more of the Department's major programs, projects or responsibilities.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the DOE team represented by these

three, who have so greatly contributed to the success of PPPL and TFTR," said Johnson of the recipients. He noted that the awards honor lifetimes of service, as well as the trio's outstanding contributions to the successful operation of TFTR. In December, TFTR produced a record 6.2 million watts of fusion power during the world's first magnetic fusion experiments using fuel comprised of equal amounts of deuterium (D) and tritium (T), the mixture required for practical amounts of fusion power.

"All three have contributed to TFTR, each at a different phase," said Johnson. "Jim Anderson moved from Los Alamos for a year or two to chip in and help us because he had the tritium knowledge, Dale Meade guided TFTR over a number of years, and Jim Sinnis is one of the best tokamak builders in the world."

"I was pleased to receive that award because it represented recognition for all the hard work that's been done over the past 20 years in getting TFTR ready for these ex-

"Everybody has sacrificed their personal time to work the extra hours to make TFTR a success. We were just the three people recognized."

— Dale Meade

periments and for the completion of the first experiments with deuterium and tritium," said Deputy Director Meade, who has been at PPPL since 1973. He stressed that the award recognizes everyone at the Laboratory, noting that successful experiments on TFTR required the efforts of "literally thousands of people" over the last 20 years.

"Everybody has sacrificed their personal time to work the extra hours to make TFTR a success. We were just the three people recognized,"

Continued on page 6



PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade (second from right) smiles after receiving the DOE Distinguished Associate Award from Dr. Martha Krebs (right), Director of the DOE Office of Energy Research. Dr. Milton Johnson, DOE Princeton Area Office Manager (left) and Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary share the special moment with Dr. Meade.

Distinguished Awards

Continued from page 5

said Meade, who in the past has headed the TFTR Project, the Experimental Physics Division in the Research Department, the TFTR Research Operations Division, and the Poloidal Divertor Experiment Operations at PPPL.

"... the accomplishments would not have been possible without the support and intellectual involvement of the people who contributed to the design and construction of the fusion devices that we built in those 30 years."

— James Sinnis

Added Sinnis, "I consider this award to be given in recognition of the contributions of the engineers, physicists, and technicians that I have been privileged to work with in the 30 years that I have been at the Laboratory. The work has been ex-

tremely rewarding to me personally but the accomplishments would not have been possible without the support and intellectual involvement of the people who contributed to the design and construction of the fusion devices that we built in those 30 years."

Sinnis was a leader in the early commissioning and operation of the TFTR. It was through his personal

involvement and expertise that reliable operation of the complex systems was first achieved. He also played a major role in the construction of the Poloidal Divertor Experiment, an earlier tokamak at the Laboratory.

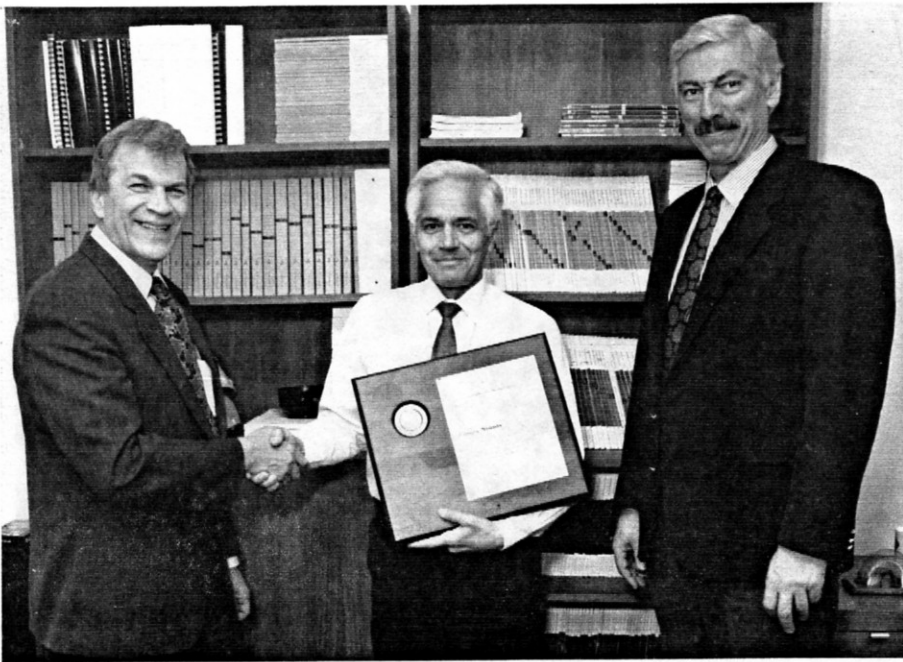


When accepting the DOE Distinguished Associate Award, James Anderson said, "In my case, because I'm here on assignment from Los Alamos, my award recognizes the importance of the inter-laboratory collaboration on TFTR." Dr. Martha Krebs, Director of the Office of Energy Research, is pictured with Anderson.

"Jim Sinnis is one of the key people at this Laboratory who has been involved in the initial operation of TFTR. His efforts carried us through the mid-eighties so that we could then be ready for this last set of experiments," said Meade.

Anderson, who has been a leader in developing the technology for use of tritium in the magnetic fusion energy program, was recognized for leading the Tritium Systems Test Assembly Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, as well as for his work at PPPL in making the TFTR tritium systems functional.

"I'm very pleased at the recognition and to have been able to be here and play a part in bringing about D-T [deuterium-tritium] operations in TFTR. It was a cherished time," Anderson said. "In my case, because I'm here on assignment from Los Alamos, my award recognizes the importance of the inter-laboratory collaboration on TFTR."



Dr. James Sinnis (center) shakes hands with PPPL Director Ronald Davidson upon receiving a Department of Energy Distinguished Associate Award. Deputy Director Dale Meade, who also received the Distinguished Associate Award, was on hand to congratulate Sinnis.

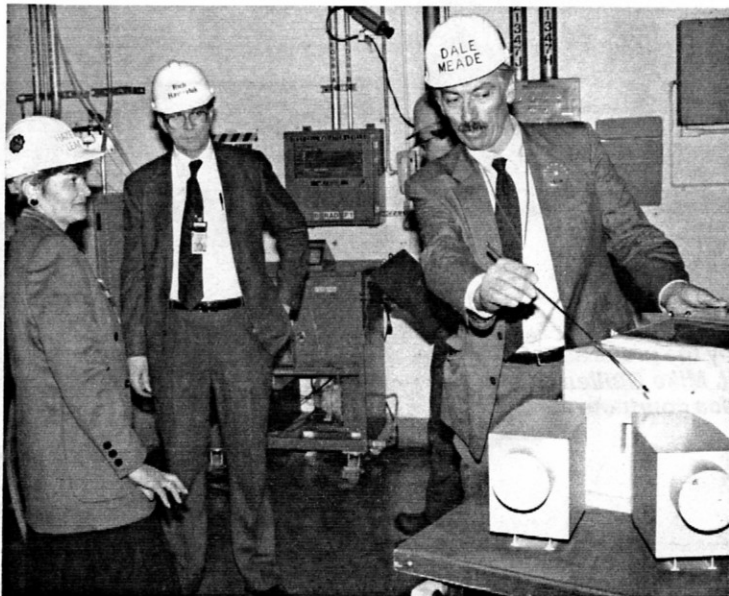
Energy Secretary O'Leary's Visit to PPPL



Braving a snow storm that closed area schools, Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary keeps her plans to visit the Laboratory.



Distinguished visitors are on hand for O'Leary's visit, including Dr. Harold Shapiro, President of Princeton University.



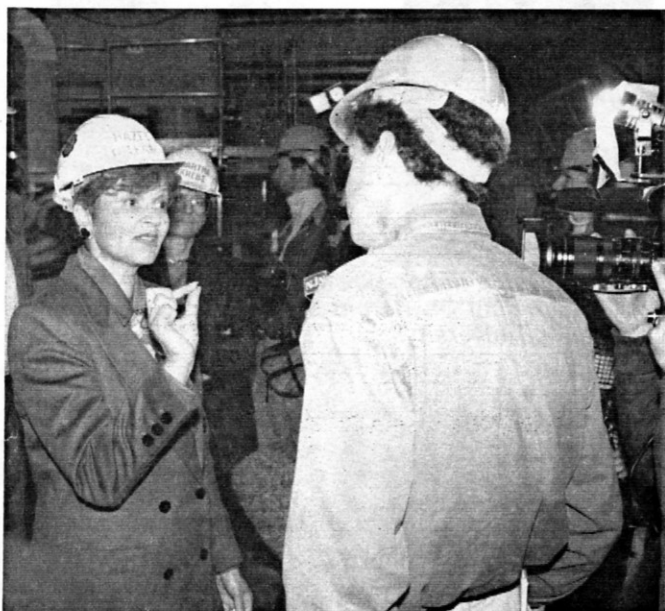
PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade (right) briefs the Secretary about TFTR, which she is about to tour. TFTR Project Head Richard Hawryluk, to the right of the Secretary, looks on.

Energy Secretary

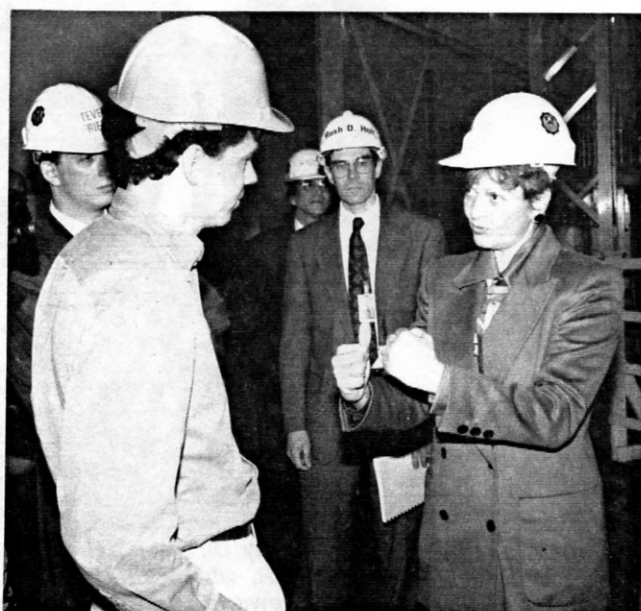
Continued from page 7



Meeting and talking with employees is important to Secretary O'Leary. Here she chats with Marshall Lewis, Jr., from Health Physics.

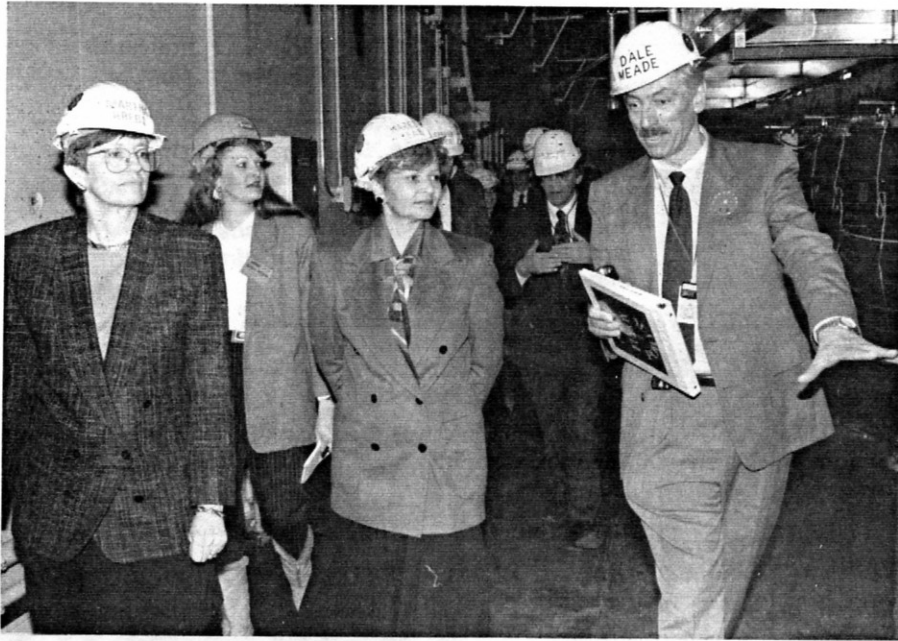


Secretary O'Leary is greeted by the press as she enters the TFTR Test Cell. Mike Guillen of ABC's Good Morning America conducts a short interview.



Energy Secretary

Continued from page 8



PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade (right) leads the tour of the TFTR. Left to right are Martha Krebs, Director of the Office of Energy Research, Linda Johnson (Associated Press News), Secretary O'Leary, and PPPL Director Ronald Davidson.



Dr. Russell Hulse, 1993 Nobel Prize Winner for Physics, and Energy Secretary O'Leary.

Secretary O'Leary speaks to Laboratory staff, praising the recent accomplishments, but also pointing out that there are tough times ahead. She emphasizes that "we" must educate the public and Congress to invest in long-term science. "People like you and me need to build on the understanding and appreciation for what we're doing," she said.



Energy Secretary

Continued from page 9



Taking advantage of having most of the PPPL staff together, Secretary of Energy O'Leary (left) turns the microphone over to Dr. Martha Krebs, Director of the Office of Energy Research, who presents Jim Anderson (center) and Dale Meade (not shown) with DOE Distinguished Associate Awards. Krebs leaves a third DOE Award for Jim Sinnis.



Secretary O'Leary answers questions and talks with reporters from area newspapers.

HOTLINE

Editor:	Carol Phillips
Writer:	Patti Wieser
Layout:	Carol Phillips
Photography:	Dietmar Krause
Reproduction:	Teri Daynorowicz
	Beverly Falkler

The PPPL HOTLINE is issued by the Princeton University Plasma Physics Laboratory, a research facility supported by the United States Department of Energy. It is primarily an internal publication. Correspondence and requests to reprint material should be directed to the Editor, PPPL HOTLINE, P.O. Box 451, Princeton, NJ 08543; fax 609-243-2751 or telephone 609-243-2754; Interoffice correspondence should be addressed to Room B366, LOB Bldg., C-Site.