

APWA *Washington* REPORT

November 2006

INTERGOVERNMENTAL



The 2006 election results mark a shift in Congressional leadership and legislative priorities.

2006 Mid-term Election Results

DEMOCRATS GAIN CONTROL OF U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE

National elections in November gave control of the U.S. House and Senate to the Democratic Party. As of November 10, Democrats gained 27 seats in the House with ten seats undecided, a total of 229-239 seats, comfortably over the 218 needed for majority status. In the Senate, Democrats picked up five seats and one Independent seat (which counts as Democratic for majority purposes), giving them the majority by a single seat. The new majority is certain to elect Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Speaker of the House and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) Senate Majority Leader.

This shift is highly likely to have an effect on public works legislation, particularly in the realm of transportation security, when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007. The majority party determines committee chairmen, and therefore has a large impact in determining which legislation comes to the floor for a vote. However, with a slim majority in the Senate and a Republican President with veto power, Democrats are likely to push legislation that is moderate in nature and

stresses oversight of federal agencies. Below is a summary of incoming chairmen that will be leading committees with public works jurisdictions.

House Committee on Resources: Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WV)

The House Committee on Resources has jurisdiction over water resources and public lands. Rep. Rahall, a key architect of TEA-21 and other transportation legislation, replaces Republican Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA), an opponent of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Rahall opposes energy exploration in public lands and environmentally sensitive areas and is an advocate for increased funding for the Endangered Species Act. It is also expected that Rahall will change the committee's previous energy policy direction from increased fossil fuel exploration to clean-coal technology investment.

House Committee on Homeland Security: Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS)

Rep. Thompson already stated that he will focus on rail and transit security as Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He is likely to strengthen tools and resources for first responders and press for increased oversight of the Department of Homeland Security.

INSIDE YOU'LL FIND:

P2--2006 Mid-term Election Results, cont.; Ballot Propositions
P3--ENVIRONMENT: Drinking Water; Water Treatment Plant Residuals
P4--Radioactive Residuals; Wastewater; Solid Waste
P5--Brownfields; Water Pollution;
TRANSPORTATION: Freight Summit

P6--Retroreflectivity; Work Zone Safety; Americans with Disabilities Act
P7--Commuting; Private Activity Funds; Clean Fuels Grants Program
P8--Safe Routes to School; EMERGENCY MNGMT/DISASTER MITIGATION: Pandemic Flu
P9--Homeland Security; Emergency Response
P10--DHS Nomination



American Public Works Association • Washington Office

Peter B. King, Executive Director • 1401 K Street, NW, 11th Floor, Washington DC 20005
(202) 408-9541 • (202) 408-9542 fax • apwa.dc@apwa.net • www.apwa.net/advocacy

***House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:
Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN)***

Rep. Oberstar was the 2005 recipient of APWA's Distinguished Service Award. He strongly believes the federal government should have a large role in financing transportation and infrastructure. The committee will be focusing on reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration when it begins work in January. Additional issues the committee is likely to address include pipeline safety, water resources, Amtrak overhaul and transportation security.



Likely Democratic majority leadership: **Rep. Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA), Speaker of the House, and **Sen. Harry Reid** (D-NV), Senate Majority Leader.

***Senate Committee on Science, Commerce and Transportation:
Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)***

Sen. Inouye's priorities may be somewhat similar to outgoing Chairman Ted Stevens' (R-AK) in terms of telecommunications legislation. The committee is also likely to look at rail and mass transit security.

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT)

Although Sen. Lieberman won his reelection as an Independent, he has been promised Chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs by the presumptive Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. In replacing Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), the committee is likely to stress more oversight of the Department of Homeland Security.

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)

Sen. Bingaman is likely to stress improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy resources and technologies. He supports the expansion of nuclear power, but not to the extent of his predecessor, Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM).

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

Congressional Quarterly reports that this committee is likely to see the most drastic change of all. Sen. Boxer has often clashed with outgoing Chairman Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), and is likely to dramatically shift the committee's direction on legislation concerning global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, including those from electric utilities, as well as restore many environmental protections.

For questions or additional information about the 2006 elections, please contact Elizabeth Kelsey, APWA Government Affairs Assistant, at ekelsey@apwa.net or (202) 218-6732.

Ballot Propositions

SEVERAL BALLOT PROPOSITIONS LIKELY TO IMPACT PUBLIC WORKS

The 2006 election cycle featured 205 ballot propositions, many of which are likely to impact public works and infrastructure. Major themes were infrastructure funding, municipal debt and taxation, and land use.

Voters in many states voted to invest heavily in infrastructure. In California, voters approved more than \$43 billion in infrastructure bonds; including road projects, housing, public school facilities, water and conservation projects, and levee repair. New Mexico voters approved creation of a water trust fund (a general fund transfer to fund watershed restoration, water infrastructure, flood prevention and water recycling projects). Voters in Minnesota approved creation of a motor vehicle sales tax to be used for transit assistance and highway decongestion, and voters in New Jersey chose to dedicate a fixed portion of motor fuel tax to the state transportation system. Rhode Island voters approved bonds for transportation and the creation of a Department of Environmental Management, but did not approve bonds to improve and repair a state park.

Voters also chose not to restrict state and local governments' abilities to raise taxes to fund services and enter into debt if necessary. Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) initiatives were defeated in Maine, Nebraska and

Oregon by 54, 70, and 71 percent respectively. People in Arizona and New Mexico voted to allow their state governments to enter into debt for certain purposes.

Many states' voters wanted more control when it came to public and private land. New Jersey and Michigan voters elected to increase funds available for conservation efforts, but Marylanders voted to prevent the Board of Public Works from selling or leasing park lands without voter approval. Many states voted to roll back the eminent domain ruling handed down by the Supreme Court in *Kelo v. New London*, a controversial decision allowing local governments to condemn and seize private property in the name of redevelopment, which many saw as a violation of personal property rights. Voters in Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon and South Carolina voted to restrict eminent domain. Similar propositions failed, however, when coupled with additional restrictions on regulatory takings (eminent domain issues that result from zoning lands as conservation areas). Arizona was the only state in which voters approved the stricter regulatory takings/eminent domain initiative. Arizonans also voted against two conflicting – and potentially confusing – ballot measures to conserve different amounts of land in different ways.

For more information about any of the 2006 ballot initiatives, please contact Elizabeth Kelsey at ekelsey@apwa.net or (202) 218-6732.

ENVIRONMENT

Drinking Water

EPA ISSUES FINAL GROUNDWATER RULE

Under a newly published final rule, public water systems that use ground water sources will now have to look for pathogen viruses and bacteria in their source water and treat it, if necessary, to protect against contamination. The Groundwater Rule establishes a risk-based approach to target groundwater systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination, instead of requiring disinfection for all ground water systems. The rule requires ground water systems at the greatest risk of fecal contamination to take corrective action to reduce cases of illnesses and deaths due to exposure to microbial pathogens. The effective date of the new rule is January 8, 2007, and the compliance date for the rule is December 1, 2009.

A copy of the *Federal Register* notice is available at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-8763.pdf>.

For more information on the rule contact Crystal Rodgers, Standards & Risk Management Division, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, at Rodgers.crystal@epa.gov, or APWA Senior Government Affairs Manager Julia Anastasio at janastasio@apwa.net or (202) 218-6750.

Water Treatment Plant Residuals

EPA ISSUES GUIDE ON IDENTIFICATION & DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS & NON-HAZARDOUS WATER TREATMENT PLANT RESIDUALS

The Office of Water within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a new guide, *A System's Guide to the Identification & Disposal of Hazardous & Non-Hazardous Water Treatment Plant Residuals*, to provide drinking water systems with information on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) waste handling requirements for treatment of plant wastes. RCRA's definition of solid waste is broad and encompasses all wastes that a water treatment plant may produce, including liquid residuals, solid residuals and sludge. Although most water systems can avoid generating hazardous wastes, some residuals may contain certain naturally occurring contaminants, such as arsenic, in high enough concentrations to be classified as hazardous. The guide summarizes the federal requirements for identifying, storing and disposing of hazardous and non-hazardous water treatment plant wastes.

The Guide is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/compliance.html#tools>.

Radioactive Residuals

NEW GUIDE AVAILABLE TO HELP DRINKING WATER FACILITIES MANAGE RADIOACTIVE RESIDUALS

Drinking water facilities must often treat water containing naturally occurring radionuclides such as uranium and radium. Removal of radionuclides produces residual waste, such as spent resins, spent filter media, spent membranes, sludge, brine, rinse water, acid neutralization streams and concentrations. The treatment of water containing naturally occurring radionuclides increases the radionuclide concentrations in the residual waste generated by the facility. The concentration of the radionuclide residuals, the type of waste produced and federal and state regulations affect what disposal options are available to a system for this type of waste.

To help utilities required to lower radionuclide levels in their waste, *A System's Guide to the Management of Radionuclide Residuals from Drinking Water Technologies* presents information on treatment technologies, treatment and disposal concentrations and disposal options.

Additionally, drinking water systems generating uranium or thorium laced residuals may also be subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). If the radionuclide concentration is less than .05 percent by weight, the NRC considers the waste an "unimportant quantity" and exempts it from NRC regulations. If a facility has treatment residuals with concentrations of greater than .05 percent by weight and the facility has less than 15 pounds or no more than 150 pounds in any calendar year, the NRC considers this a "small quantity" and the facility needs a NRC general license. If the utility has more than a small quantity, the facility will need a license from the NRC to properly handle its residual waste.

The Guide is available at

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/radionuclides/pdfs/guide_radionuclides_systemsguidetoradioactive.pdf.

Wastewater

ENERGY CONSERVATION GUIDE FOR POTWS AVAILABLE

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a fact sheet, *Energy Conservation*, to assist municipal and utility managers and operators in reducing energy consumption at wastewater treatment plants. The fact sheet also provides information on how to produce on-site energy by using solar cells, microturbines, fuel cells and effective use of biogas—a by-product of biosolids processing.

EPA estimates that energy costs currently account for 30 percent of the total operation and maintenance costs of wastewater treatment facilities. The fact sheet outlines the elements of an effective energy management plan:

- Tracking energy usage and costs through an integrated system
- Upgrading equipment, systems and controls, including facility and collection system improvements, to increase energy efficiency
- Developing a cost-effective electric supply purchasing strategy
- Optimizing load profiles by shifting operations and
- Developing in-house energy management training for operators.

The fact sheet is available at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/mtbfact.htm>.

Solid Waste

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING RATES UP SLIGHTLY IN 2005

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released the *Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2005 Facts & Figures* biannual report, which shows that Americans recycled 32 percent of the nation's solid waste last year, up slightly from 31.4 percent in 2004. As a nation Americans generated almost 246 million tons of municipal solid waste last year, representing a decrease of nearly 2 million tons from the previous year. The decrease is due in part to the decline in industrial waste generation to about 4.5 pounds per person per day, a 1.5 percent decrease from 2004. The decrease in individual waste generation was also

influenced by increases in recycling rates. In 2005, Americans recycled 58.4 million tons of waste or 1.5 pounds per person per day, up 1.2 million tons from 2004.

The report also found that container and packaging recycling increased to 40 percent, nearly 62 percent of yard waste was composted and about 42 million tons of paper recycled. The amount of waste sent to landfills was also down slightly and an estimated 33.4 million tons, or 13.6 percent of the waste total, was used to generate energy in 2005, down from 2004.

The report is available at <http://www.epa.gov/msw/msw99.htm>.

Brownfields

GUIDELINES FOR BROWNFIELDS FUNDING RELEASED

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued guidelines to help local governments apply for \$72 million in available funding. The funding is available through grants or loans from a revolving loan fund.

The agency anticipates awarding approximately 200 cooperative agreements for eligible entities to conduct inventories, assess and conduct clean-up and redevelopment planning and community involvement efforts related to brownfield sites. Applicants must provide a 20 percent cost-share for revolving fund and clean-up grants. Applications are due December 12.

The guidelines are available at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>.

Water Pollution

PESTICIDES USED IN WATER EXEMPT FROM REQUIREMENTS OF CLEAN WATER ACT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to finalize a rule exempting pesticides used in water from clean water permits. The new rule will state that pesticides applied in compliance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) do not also need a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act. The new rule applies in two situations:

- (1) the use of pesticides in water to control pests and
- (2) the application of pesticides over waters that results in a portion of the pesticides being deposited in the waters below.

The final rule will be published in the *Federal Register* in the coming months.

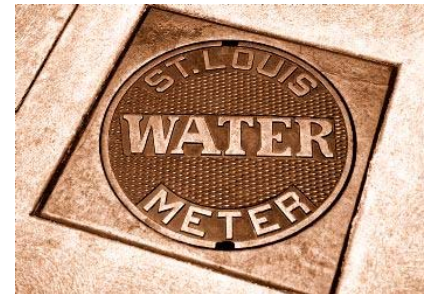


Image courtesy of Jim Martin Public Works Photo Library at www.apwa.net.

TRANSPORTATION

Freight Summit

GOODS MOVEMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBJECT OF DEC. SUMMIT

The National Association of Regional Councils and the Texas Department of Transportation are co-hosting a 2006 Freight Summit, titled "From Design to Delivery: Gateways to Prosperity" on December 4-6 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The event will bring together 300 freight and goods movement professionals from the public and private sectors to discuss the interaction between goods movement and economic development. Attendees will be high-level professionals and policy-makers.

For more information visit <http://narc.org/activities/transportation/transportation-events/2006-freight-summit.html>.

Retroreflectivity

APWA FILES COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING

On November 3 APWA filed comments in response to the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) supplemental proposed rule on maintaining sign retroreflectivity. The supplemental rule outlined changes to a 2004 proposed rulemaking, including proposing a standard for minimum levels of retroreflectivity and establishing that a method shall (not should) be identified and used to maintain sign retroreflectivity.

APWA's comments point out the indispensable role traffic control devices play in transportation safety and convey a commitment to working with FHWA and other agencies to improve transportation safety. They also stress unfunded mandate concerns associated with the rulemaking and concerns local agencies have regarding exposure to liability.

The rule proposes a seven-year compliance period for regulatory, warning and post-mounted guide signs and a 10-year compliance period for overhead guide signs and street name signs.

No timeline has been set regarding when the rule will be finalized. The comments were prepared by APWA's Transportation Committee and Small Cities/Rural Communities Forum and are posted at www.apwa.net/advocacy.

Work Zone Safety

FHWA ISSUES SUPPLEMENT TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES RULE

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has proposed to supplement its regulation that governs work zone safety and mobility in highway and street work zones to include conditions for the appropriate use of, and expenditure of funds for, uniformed law enforcement officers, positive protective measures between workers and motorized traffic, and installation and maintenance of temporary traffic control devices during construction, utility and maintenance operations.

The proposed changes are intended to decrease the likelihood of fatalities and injuries to workers who are exposed to motorized traffic while working on Federal-aid highway projects.

Comments must be received on or before January 2, 2007. For more information contact Chung Eng, Office of Transportation Operations, at (202) 366-8043. The notice was published in the November 1 *Federal Register* under Federal Highway Administration:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-18283.htm>.

Americans with Disabilities Act

NEW ADA STANDARDS ISSUED FOR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

The U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) has adopted new standards for transportation facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Based on updated guidelines issued by the Access Board in 2004, the standards will apply to bus stops and stations, rail stations and airports built or altered after November 29, 2006, as indicated in a notice published by DOT in the *Federal Register* on October 30. The standards may also apply to certain key rail stations and intercity rail stations but otherwise do not apply to existing facilities except in the case of alterations.

The new standards contain updated provisions that improve accessibility while facilitating compliance. For example, the standards clarify and enhance access to fare vending machines and bus stops, and include revised specifications for tactile warnings along boarding platform drop-offs that will accommodate a wider range of available products.

These and other changes, including a revised format and numbering system, derive from the Access Board's overhaul of its ADA Accessibility Guidelines. Other facilities covered by the ADA, including places of

public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities, are subject to standards maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ intends to adopt similar standards for these facilities but has not released a timetable for this action.

Further information on the status of these efforts is posted on the Access Board's Web site at <http://www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/standards-update.htm>. The October 30 *Federal Register* notice is available at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-16680.htm>.

For more information contact Robert C. Ashby, Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement, at (202) 366-9306.

Commuting

NEW REPORT ANALYZES RECENT COMMUTING TRENDS

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) released the third edition of *Commuting in America*, which finds that commuting trends are changing as baby boomers near retirement age at the same time that a large immigrant population has joined the U.S. labor force.

Commuting in America III is one of the most comprehensive documents of its kind. Based on the latest census information available, it contains 155 figures, 79 tables and some 100 "factlets" that tell the story of America's commuting trends and patterns over the last 10 years.

More information about the report is available at www.trb.org/ciaiii.

Private Activity Bonds

TEXAS AUTHORIZED TO PAY FOR PROJECT WITH TAX-EXEMPT BONDS

Texas became the first state receiving federal approval to seek to raise more than \$1.8 billion in private activity bonds for work on a state highway outside Dallas, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced.

Under SAFETEA-LU, states can issue and transfer to private companies up to \$15 billion in tax-exempt bonds, known as private activity bonds, to finance a range of highway, freight and transit projects.

Texas was the first state to request and receive authorization to pursue plans to pay for a highway project using private activity bonds. Under the terms of the application, the state will hold a competition early next year to select a single private company with the authority to design the project and build the highway. The state would then go back to DOT for final approval to issue up to \$1.866 billion in private activity bonds by the fall of 2007 and transfer the proceeds to the company.

Clean Fuels Grants Program

FORMULA-BASED PROGRAM TO CHANGE TO DISCRETIONARY

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has issued a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning the SAFETEA-LU Clean Fuels Grant Program. SAFETEA-LU changed the program from a formula-based to a discretionary grant program. FTA proposes to amend its clean fuels grant program regulations to comport with the provisions of the Act.

TEA-21 established the Clean Fuels Formula Grant Program with a two-fold purpose. First, the program was developed to assist non-attainment and maintenance areas in achieving or maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and carbon monoxide (CO). Second, the program supported emerging clean fuel and advanced propulsion technologies for transit buses and markets for those technologies. From its inception the program was authorized as a formula program. However, Congress did not fund the program.

Comments must be received on or before December 15. Late filed comments will be considered to the extent practicable. For more information contact Kimberly Sledge, Office of Program Management, at (202) 366-4011 or Kimberly.Sledge@dot.gov.

Safe Routes to School

APWA MEMBER NAMED TO SERVE ON DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard Deal, Traffic Engineer, City of Monterey, Calif., was appointed by U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters to serve as APWA's representative on the Department's National Safe Routes to School Task Force.

The Safe Routes to School Program was authorized by SAFETEA-LU to fund the development and implementation of projects that will enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school. The law requires the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to prepare a report outlining a national strategy for advancing safe routes to school programs. The Task Force includes 17 members selected to serve as an advisory body to DOT, with responsibility for providing advice and making recommendations during preparation of the report.

The Task Force meets for the first time in January in Washington, D.C.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER MITIGATION

Pandemic Flu

APWA MEMBER BRIEFS CONGRESS ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR A POTENTIAL PANDEMIC FLU OUTBREAK

City parks filled with ducks and geese, poultry farms and family flocks are potential outbreak sites for avian flu. Found chiefly in birds, the H5N1 virus, which can cause severe disease or death in humans, will require extensive preparations and precautions in the case of an outbreak to avoid escalation into a pandemic. In October during a briefing on Capitol Hill for Congressional staff, APWA member expert Christine Walsh, Director of Operations for the City of Beloit, Wisc., discussed the role of public works in preparing for a pandemic flu outbreak.

"Public Works staff are first-line responders in all emergency situations, including an influenza pandemic," said Walsh. "At the same time they respond to emergencies, they have continuous responsibility to keep our communities functioning by maintaining infrastructure, clean water, solid waste disposal and other essential day-to-day operations."

Walsh, who was born and raised on the world's largest fancy poultry farm and is a past partner in Walsh Farms, encouraged lawmakers to include public works staff in the group of responders who will be first to receive vaccinations should an outbreak occur. She emphasized the need to train employees about precautionary practices and develop an extensive response plan within the community and in local regions. Walsh also encouraged more practice exercises for public works staff with emergency responders including fire, police and medical services as well as agriculture experts.

For more information contact APWA Government Affairs Manager Dan Jensen at djensen@apwa.net or (202) 218-6734.



APWA member **Christine Walsh**, Director of Operations with the City of Beloit, Wisc., discussed pandemic from a public works perspective during a Congressional briefing in October.

Homeland Security

ELECTION BRINGS BIG CHANGES TO WASHINGTON

After last week's historic elections in which the democrats gained control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1994, pundits, lobbyists and constituents alike are expecting big changes in the way America is managed from Capitol Hill.

The House and Senate Homeland Security Committees will see significant changes as a result of the changeover. In the House, Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) will Chair the House Committee on Homeland Security while former Chairman, Rep. Peter King (R-NY) will take over the role of Ranking Member.

Outlining their agenda, House Democrats have said they plan to increase funding for rail and transit security, maritime security, the Coast Guard and first responders. Democratic lawmakers and staff indicate that additional funding for these measures could be provided through various initiatives, such as repealing tax breaks for those who make more than \$1 million a year, and finding offsets, such as increased user, Customs and immigration fees. The Democratic agenda includes preventing the outsourcing of critical U.S. infrastructure to foreign interests, investing in public health capabilities and services and ensuring that all cargo containers bound for the U.S. in ships or airplanes are screened at their points of origin. Rep. Thompson also stressed that Congressional oversight of the Department of Homeland Security will be his "first priority" in the new Congress.

In the Senate, Joseph Lieberman was re-elected in Connecticut as an Independent after losing the Democratic primary. A spokeswoman for Democratic leader Sen. Harry Reid, (D-NV), said that Lieberman would keep his seniority and become chairman of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee when the Democrats take control next year. Lieberman will continue to serve with Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), who will become Ranking Member. The Lieberman and Collins leadership has been considered "extremely non-partisan" in its approach to homeland security issues.

Under Sen. Lieberman, the committee is anticipated to continue focusing on the issues he stressed over the past two years, including scrutinizing the Homeland Security Department and monitoring reform at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

It is also expected that Democrats will seek to increase the jurisdiction of the committees. House rules currently describe the jurisdiction of the Homeland Security Committee as border and port security, except immigration policy and non-border enforcement, and Customs, except customs revenue. Committee jurisdiction also includes: overall of homeland security policy; DHS organization, administration, and functions; integration, analysis and dissemination of homeland security information, domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, research and development, and transportation security.

Examples of committees under DHS operations jurisdiction include: the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (jurisdiction over the Coast Guard and federal management of emergencies and natural disasters) and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (jurisdiction over the Coast Guard and transportation).

Emergency Response

FEMA, COAST GUARD RESPOND TO HAWAII EARTHQUAKE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent an Advance Emergency Response Team consisting of 75 personnel to Hawaii in response to an earthquake that hit the state on Oct. 15. The team departed from Oakland, Calif., on Monday and was scheduled to do assessments last week. A 6.6 magnitude earthquake was registered on the Big Island of Hawaii, resulting in severe damage to structures but no loss of life.

Coast Guard crews stationed at Air Station Barbers Point on the Island of Oahu assisted FEMA efforts by flying personnel between Honolulu and the western side of the Big Island for the assessment missions.

FEMA's Pacific Area Office worked with the Hawaii State Civil Defense to do rapid needs and preliminary damage assessments. The focus has been centered on an assessment of power generation and distribution, potable water systems (pump stations) and sewage treatment requirements on the western portion of the Big Island.

DHS Nomination

PRESIDENT NOMINATES UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT

President Bush announced the nomination of Paul A. Schneider as Undersecretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a statement, "I look forward to Paul's confirmation, as well as his leadership and expertise in strengthening core management support functions for department-wide operations."

Schneider has more than 40 years of management experience, beginning his career in 1965 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a project engineer. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1981 and served as the deputy director of NAVSEA'S Auxiliary Systems Sub-Group. He later served as the executive director and senior civilian of the Naval Sea Systems Command and as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition. In 2002, he became the Senior Acquisition Executive of the National Security Agency.

APWA Washington Report contributors include Julia Anastasio, Jim Fahey, Dan Jensen and Elizabeth Kelsey. Becky Wickstrom is editor of the Report.