

Historic Accomplishments

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When pandemic history is written, the Department of Energy will be front and center.

“We are going to be proud of a couple of things – we kept the lights on and we helped find a cure – and that’s on the mission side,” Rocky Campione exclaimed.

“Our Power Marketing Administration (PMA) provided 11% of the bulk electricity power for the country. The PMA – which includes Bonneville Power, Western Area Power, Southeastern Power and Southwestern Area Power – had to make sure their operations centers could be up and running when we moved to a telework environment. It was our responsibility to make sure that people had the ability to remotely; and to work on premises in a safe environment.”

Also the DOE CIO shop had to make sure that our National Laboratories – where some of the greatest scientific minds in the world work – had the ability to shift their focus to working on understanding the virus, understanding the vaccines and helping the country as a whole to marshal our resources to help find a cure.

“We were able to do that because of the work done over the past three years,” noted Mr. Campione.

“Those are great accomplishments when we look back, but I am most proud of the preparedness and the foundation. I am proud of the two or three weeks where my team of IT pros across the Department were rapidly getting out laptops, RSA tokens, whatever it is to allow people to telework. And I am proud that once we were up and running we didn’t just say “great job” and move on. We kept moving and accomplishing our mission.”

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Reducing Friction

Mr. Campione says DOE is reducing both the barriers and frictions that stymie innovation. That includes the normal day-to-day things such as improving how we did ATOs authorization – Authoring Stop Rate.

“We rolled out a rapid ATO process so we could rapidly introduce innovations and new technologies, but still be secure. We also have new contracts such as Enterprise Agreements – the latest with Google cloud – so that we could roll out innovative technologies rapidly and that procurement wasn’t an issue. And we went to full operational capability with a Big Data platform so we can analyze cybersecurity across

the Department and better protect ourselves.”

It’s all due to the people that we work with; and with the support, collaboration and leadership from the Secretary to marshal that in the right direction, you can accomplish great things, Mr. Campione said.

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Pandemic Priorities

The first is making sure people can work and continue to work safely wherever they are.

The second said Mr. Campione is making sure we better protect our control systems across DOE. “We have done a great job on IT but how do we better monitor and protect our control systems not just at the PMA, but also at our scientific user facilities and construction sites. We have different control systems all across the Department and we want to continue to improve our security of those systems. At the core is facilitating the ability to contin-

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ue to innovate and fostering
that culture of innovation and
reducing the 'friction' so people
can innovate." ■