

Testimony of Tim Walsh
Nominee for the Position of Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management
at the U.S. Department of Energy
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 9, 2025

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am honored to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be the next Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy.

I am grateful to President Trump for this nomination, and I seek to earn your trust and support as well. This role holds significant responsibilities, and I will bring my extensive leadership and management expertise to the world's largest environmental cleanup program.

My amazing wife, Lisa, and our two awesome children – Alex and Natalie are here today. When Lisa and I married 35 years ago, I was stationed at Fort Bragg where I was a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division. Shortly after being married, with 18-hours notice, my unit was combat deployed for Operation Desert Shield. U.S. Senator Dave McCormick, back then 1LT McCormick, was my XO. Little did I know that I would spend most of the first year of my marriage with Dave instead of my wife. And I'm sure Lisa had no idea, as the CO's wife, her first year of marriage would be spent taking care of my soldiers' spouses and family members. Sacrifices are made, but love endures!

If confirmed, it will be an honor for me to serve the people of this great nation as the leader of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy. My love for the United States, and passion to serve stems from growing up overseas and realizing the exceptionalism of America. My Dad was a decorated Army soldier who fought in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In the mid-1950s he met my mom who had escaped from Soviet East Germany. I am the youngest of five kids and grew accustomed to the adventure of moving every couple of years – mostly in Europe and the Middle East.

I've always had an intellectual curiosity of sciences and building. This drew me to West Point where I studied Civil and Mechanical Engineering. After graduation and Ranger School, I led combat engineers in Germany and built construction projects in Turkey during the Reagan Cold War build-up.

After the Army, with a master's degree from Stanford University, I began a career in the construction industry, building complex, advanced technology facilities for the semiconductor and other industries. Realizing there is a better way to deliver construction projects faster and cheaper, I created Confluence Builders as a vertically integrated real estate development company. I'm proud of my company's many accomplishments to build over 2.5 billion dollars of landmark real estate developments.

I recognize the significance of Environmental Management's mission, and the responsibility of addressing the legacies of the Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons development is enormous.

Living only 16 miles south of the Rocky Flats in Colorado, I understand the impact these sites have on a community. Safe, efficient, and effective cleanup is critical. Rocky Flats, however, demonstrates what the Environmental Management program can achieve to safely and successfully accomplish its cleanup mission. The Manhattan Project's rapid development helped end WWII, and subsequent nuclear research contributed to preventing further use of nuclear weapons. It is now our duty to address legacy waste and ensure a safe, secure, and clean environment for all Americans.

I appreciate the program is also focused on new missions, including President Trump's and Secretary Wright's goal of creating space for the Golden Era of American Energy.

My strengths are being a strong leader, building cohesive teams, and achieving complex goals. If confirmed, I would bring to Environmental Management:

- Strategic focus, planning, and leadership for the entire Environmental Management mission to ensure the most pressing risks receive maximum attention.
- Decisive decision-making and disciplined project management to ensure accountability and results are achieved.
- Finally, I will bring my collaborative approach to work with all stakeholders, including Congress, local communities and the Tribal Nations.

I am honored for this opportunity and if confirmed I would be grateful for the opportunity to lead the Environmental Management team to drive down environmental risks and enable U.S. jobs, U.S. energy, and U.S. security.