

January 20, 1989	George Bush is inaugurated President.
March 9, 1989	James D. Watkins is sworn in as Secretary of Energy
March 23, 1989	Scientists at the University of Utah announce discovery of cold fusion, drawing immediate world wide attention.
June 6, 1989	The Justice Department announces an investigation into possible violations of federal environmental laws at Rocky Flats.
June 27, 1989	Watkins announces a ten-point plan to strengthen environmental protection and waste management activities at the Department's production, research, and testing facilities.
July 6, 1989	Nevada Governor Robert Miller signs a bill declaring storage of high-level radioactive waste in the state to be illegal.
July 26, 1989	President Bush directs the Department to develop a comprehensive national energy policy plan.
August 1, 1989	Watkins announces the completion of the five-year cleanup plan to "characterize and prioritize" waste cleanups at departmental sites.
September 29, 1989	Watkins establishes the Modernization Review Committee to review the assumptions and recommendations of the <i>2010 Report</i> .
November 9, 1989	Watkins establishes the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management within the Department.
November 28, 1989	The Department announces a new high-level waste management plan and requests the Justice Department to file suit to obtain necessary permits for the Yucca Mountain repository.
August 2, 1990	Iraq invades and seizes Kuwait, creating a major international crisis.
August 15, 1990	Secretary Watkins announces plans to increase oil production and decrease consumption to counter Iraqi-Kuwaiti oil losses.
November 21, 1990	President Bush declares the end of the Cold War as relations ease with the Soviet Union.
December 21, 1990	Watkins presents the National Energy Strategy to President Bush.
January 11, 1991	The IEA Governing Board agrees to a contingency plan combining a stockdraw with demand restraint measures to prevent sharp oil price increases in the event of war.
January 16-17, 1991	United Nations coalition forces launch Operation Desert Storm when Saddam Hussein refuses to withdraw from Kuwait.
January 28, 1991	The Department obtains an administrative land withdrawal from the Department of Interior, giving the Department full control over the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
February 7, 1991	The Complex Reconfiguration Committee, formerly the Modernization Review Board, releases its recommendations for a reconfigured weapons complex, Complex-21.