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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Energy official details nuclear, AI future

Mariah Franklin

USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Oak Ridge's energy enterprises have the Trump administration's attention.

Tim Walsh, assistant secretary for the Office of Environmental Management at the U.S. Department of Energy, is one of several energy department leaders to visit Oak Ridge for a look at



Walsh

what's new in a city home to the nation's largest multi-program science and technology lab, a nuclear weapons facility and a private nuclear industry that's invested billions in nuclear projects in recent years.

Walsh is leading an office that's been

remediating toxic and radioactive sites in Oak Ridge and around the U.S. for decades. He also is planning to reorganize and rename the office he runs, shifting from Environmental Management to the Office of Nuclear Restoration and Revitalization.

His April visit comes as President Donald Trump aims to reduce regulations on new nuclear facilities, quadruple nu-

clear capacity by 2050 and use reactors to power the military and AI. The Oak Ridge National Lab also has been tapped to advance Trump's Genesis AI mission.

Knox News sat down with Walsh to ask him about the reason for his visit, as well as his vision for the future of energy in Oak Ridge.

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The Pugh and Elkins families gather while grieving the shooting deaths of family members on April 19 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Eight children were killed and two women injured. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

## Answers sought after Louisiana massacre

### Man kills 8 children; 7 were his own

Christopher Cann, Makenzie Boucher and N'dea Yancey-Bragg  
USA TODAY NETWORK

SHREVEPORT, LA - Residents of this historic riverfront city remained shaken a day after a gunman opened fire April 19 and killed eight children in the nation's deadliest mass shooting since January

2024.

They were looking for explanations - and authorities were trying to provide them, piecing together information on the tragedy.

Police said the suspect, identified as Shamar Elkins, also shot the mother of his children and another woman, both of whom survived with serious injuries. Elkins then fled the scene on foot and stole a car at gunpoint, leading to a police chase that ended with officers shooting him dead, according to police.

The victims killed were Jayla Elkins, 3; Shayla Elkins, 5; Kayla Pugh, 6; Layla Pugh, 7; Markaydon Pugh, 10; Sariah Snow, 11; Khedarrion Snow, 6; and Braylon Snow, 5, the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office said. Seven of them were Shamar Elkins' children.

"I just don't know what to say - my heart is just taken aback," Shreveport Police Chief Wayne Smith said on April 19, adding that the attack was unlike

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## Pundits are questioning President's mental state

Phillip M. Bailey  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's behavior and comments have long led political opponents to question his mental health, but now the accusation that he is unhinged is coming from more than the usual liberal suspects.



Trump

Prominent conservative pundits - including former Fox News hosts Megyn Kelly and Tucker Carlson to conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and podcaster Candace Owens - are suggesting the president is unwell.

"I really think that his mental capacity needs to be examined," former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Georgia, said during an April 15 appearance on CNN International.

Jones, founder of Infowars and a longtime Trump supporter, said during a March 31 episode of his new program that GOP incumbents running for reelection need to "cut the bait" on the president before the 2026 midterm elections.

"And he does babble and, you know, sound like the brain's not doing too hot," he said.

Owens referred to Trump as a "genocidal lunatic" in an April 7 post on X, echoing Democrats when she called for using the 25th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to remove him from office.

"Our Congress and military need to intervene," she said. "We are beyond madness."

The comments have exposed another raw nerve in the ongoing Make America Great Again divide over

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