

SUBJECT: Office of Independent Oversight's Office of Environment, Safety and Health Evaluations Activity Report for the Orientation Visit to the Nevada National Security Site - January 11-13, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Independent Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), conducted an orientation visit to the DOE Nevada Site Office (NSO) and the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) from January 11-13, 2011. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the nuclear safety oversight strategy, initiate the site lead program, increase HSS personnel's operational awareness of the site's activities, and to determine how HSS can carry out its independent oversight and mission support responsibilities.

Staff from NSO, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory provided HSS personnel with detailed tours of several site facilities, including the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex, Device Assembly Facility, U1a Complex, and Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research facility. The tours gave HSS personnel the opportunity to interact with senior staff and become knowledgeable of current activities and planned operations at each of the facilities. HSS staff also visited the site's operations center and emergency operations center.

During the visit, HSS personnel briefed the Deputy Site Office Manager and members of the NSO senior staff on the Program Plan for Enhancing Independent Oversight of Nuclear Safety, which was adopted in August 2010 and describes HSS's new approach to oversight. HSS personnel also attended a number of meetings with NSO and NSTec personnel which addressed the NSO assessment program, Master Assessment Schedule, NNSS safety basis documentation, NSO readiness review process, real estate operations permit process, and status of the Critical Experiments Facility startup and related issues. Also, NSTec personnel provided HSS with a detailed overview of their "Dashboard" system for tracking and trending important safety and operational parameters.