

Final Transcript

NNSA Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS Scoping Virtual Public Meeting

Held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021



1	FINAL
2	NNSA SURPLUS PLUTONIUM
3	DISPOSITION EIS SCOPING
4	VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING
5	HELD ON
6	TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
7	
8	MR. GOODMAN: All right. Good evening,
9	folks. It's 7:00 o'clock p.m. on the East Coast,
10	5:00 o'clock Mountain Time. I see a number of
11	attendees have joined the meeting. I think let's
12	wait just a minute or two, and we'll let other folks
13	join. And then we'll go ahead and get started.
14	Thanks for coming, and thanks for your patience.
15	(Pause in the proceedings.)
16	MR. GOODMAN: Good evening, everybody, and
17	welcome to this public scoping meeting on the
18	Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program Environmental
19	Impact Statement. My name is Dave Goodman, and I
20	will be your moderator for this evening's meeting.
21	I work at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory,
22	which is under contract to the National Nuclear
23	Security Administration to support this program.
24	We have a number of NNSA employees on the
25	call that you'll be hearing from, including Jeff

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1	Galan, the NEPA document manager, which means he's
2	the project manager for this EIS; and Virginia Kay,
3	the office director in the Office of Material
4	Management and Minimization and manager over the
5	Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program.
6	It looks like right now we have 43
7	participants on the webinar, and we are very
8	appreciative and glad that you've been able to join
9	us.
10	So first off, we hope that everybody is
11	staying safe and healthy during the ongoing
12	pandemic. Obviously, we are holding this meeting
13	online, as in-person meetings aren't feasible or
14	realistic at this time. And so we appreciate your
15	interest in the project and your efforts to join us
16	for this virtual scoping meeting. We did this
17	yesterday with mostly most good success all
18	around, I would say. But we're please bear with
19	us as we attempt to use this technology and run the
20	virtual meeting as seamlessly as possible.
21	Since it's not as obvious as us getting in
22	line in an in-person scoping meeting, we will do our
23	best throughout the meeting to make it as clear as
24	possible how to provide a comment. Currently, all
25	attendees except for the presenters are muted. Our

NAEGELI (800)528-3335 DEPOSITION & TRIAL WebEx producer, Catherine, will unmute both people
 on the webinar and those calling in over the phone
 when it is your turn to provide a comment.

4 So if you're interested in providing a 5 comment and you're logged into the webinar, if you 6 click on Participants on the bottom-right side of 7 your screen, that will open the Participants panel. You can find a raised hand button at the bottom 8 right of that panel. If you press that raised hand, 9 10 that will put you into the queue to provide a 11 comment.

12 If you have just called in on the phone 13 and you would like to get into the queue, you can 14 press Star 3 to raise your hand, and we'll unmute 15 you when it's your turn to speak. When you get 16 unmuted, you might hear a beep or a voice telling 17 you that you've been unmuted.

18 Also, when we start the public comment 19 portion of the meeting after a short presentation on 20 the program, we'd like to start with Tribal, 21 Federal, State, and local elected officials and representatives. If you're in that category and 22 23 you'd like to make a comment, please raise your hand 24 and also send a note for our WebEx producer in the 25 chat window on the bottom right of your screen that



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1	you are an elected official and that you would like
2	to make a comment.
3	Please don't submit your comments through
4	the chat function. This is reserved for you to
5	identify yourself as a government official or if
6	you're having any technical issues with the WebEx.
7	So a little project background before
8	moving into the presentation. NNSA is developing
9	the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program
10	Environmental Impact Statement as required by the
11	National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The
12	NEPA process is intended to ensure that public
13	officials consider the environmental effects of
14	proposed actions and alternatives in order to foster
15	better decision-making and to provide opportunity
16	for public involvement, including early
17	participation during the scoping process, where we
18	are tonight. Public scoping is an important aspect
19	of the NEPA process.
20	Tonight, NNSA will be providing an
21	overview of its mission as it relates to this EIS.
22	In addition, there will be a brief description of
23	the NEPA process and NNSA's environmental review
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24 process as well as a short explanation of the 25 history of plutonium disposition and relevant past



1 analyses.

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2	Finally, NNSA will provide a description
3	of the purpose and need for this action, an
4	explanation of the Proposed Action, and a
5	description of the alternatives that will be
6	included in this EIS. However, at this early point
7	in the process, the alternatives have not yet been
8	finalized. Your input is important and valued as
9	NNSA proceeds into developing the EIS and refining
10	its analysis.
11	The input received during scoping will be
12	summarized and incorporated into the EIS, and NNSA
13	will consider all relevant input as the Draft EIS is
14	developed. After the Draft EIS is published,
15	additional meetings will be held to allow you to
16	provide input on that document.
17	So tonight's meeting will proceed as
18	follows: After I'm done here with the logistics,

follows: After I'm done here with the logistics, we'll proceed to a presentation, giving some context and background for the project, and we'll describe the NNSA mission, the description of the NEPA process, and the environmental review process, a description of the history of plutonium disposition and relevant past analyses, and a description of the purpose and need for action, preliminary



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1	alternatives and options, environmental issues of
2	potential concern, and the process and timeline for
3	the project. After the presentation, we will
4	proceed into the open public comment period.
5	So this meeting is scheduled for four
6	hours, or until 11:00 p.m. Eastern, 9:00 p.m.
7	Mountain. We're going to keep the webinar and phone
8	lines open until that time has elapsed. And we'll
9	also do our best to make sure that everybody has an
10	opportunity to make a comment, if interested. All
11	comments received orally here tonight will be
12	transcribed by a court reporter and will be
13	considered as part of the development of the Draft
14	EIS.

Please note that if you do not provide a comment orally here in this meeting or, if time runs short and we can't get to everybody, you have a number of other options to provide your scoping comment. You may provide your comment by phone, mail, or email. And we'll show how to do that later in the presentation.

If you've already submitted a comment, or you submitted a comment at our meeting last night, you don't have to provide an oral comment tonight, but you are welcome to do so. All comments



1 received, regardless of the mechanism or forum -- or 2 -- or forum for doing so, will be considered 3 equally.

So again, we recognize some folks are logged into the WebEx webinar, and you can see the slides, currently Meeting Rules and Tips slide. And we also recognize that some people have just called in on the phone and, therefore, you can't see the slides.

10 If you have internet access right now, 11 though, if you search NNSA NEPA Reading Room on the 12 internet, the very first link will take you to a 13 webpage that has a link to the PowerPoint 14 presentation that we'll be giving at this meeting, a 15 fact sheet, and a question-and-answer document.

And there's also a document regarding some ground rules and tips for this webinar and how to provide a comment in this forum. Additionally, you can find the phone number, address, and/or email address for you to provide your comment.

The link to the NNSA Reading Room was also in the newspaper and other announcements for this meeting. And again, we'll be providing that information later in the presentation. Please note that the -- the scoping period closes on February

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1 1st.

2	So I'll now turn to Catherine, our WebEx
3	producer, who will provide additional information
4	for how to get into the queue for those that would
5	like to make an oral comment at tonight's meeting.
6	MS. HEGWOOD: Thank you, Dave.
7	Ladies and gentlemen, to to raise your
8	hand, if you open on the bottom-right side of your
9	screen, you'll see a little bubble that says
10	Participants with a little person. If you click on
11	that, it will turn blue, and it will open a
12	Participants panel on the right-hand side. You will
13	see all of the all of the panelists' names.
14	That's a that's a cue that you are in the right
15	area.
16	Down on the bottom-right side of that
17	panel, there's a little hand. If you click on that,
18	that will put you into the queue. I will call out
19	your name and unmute you once it's your turn to
20	speak.
21	For the people on the line on the phone
22	dialed in only, if you push Star 3, that will put
23	you in the queue as well.
24	Thank you, Dave. Back to you.
25	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, Catherine.

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1	Also, we have a Spanish translator, Alvaro
2	(phonetic), available for those that would like to
3	make a comment in Spanish. And we have posted
4	Spanish language copies of the PowerPoint
5	presentation, fact sheet, and question and answer on
6	the project website.
7	Alvaro, can you please introduce yourself
8	and explain where these documents can be found and
9	provide Spanish language directions on how to get
10	into the queue?
11	THE INTERPRETER: (Speaking in Spanish).
12	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, Alvaro.
13	Thank you to Catherine as well.
14	All right. So with that, I'm going to
15	turn the presentation over to Jeff Galan, the NEPA
16	document manager, and Virginia Kay, the manager of
17	the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program, who work
18	in the NNSA Office of Material Management and
19	Minimization and who will be walking us through the
20	PowerPoint presentation, providing information on
21	the project and the Environmental Impact Statement.
22	MR. GALAN: Great. Thanks, Dave.
23	Good evening. My name is Jeff Galan, and
24	I'm the NEPA document manager for the Surplus
25	Plutonium Disposition Program EIS.



1	I'd like to first provide you with a brief
2	explanation of what the National Nuclear Security
3	Administration is and then what the Office of
4	Material Management and Minimization does.

5 I am an NNSA employee, and I'm a member of 6 the Office of Material Management and Minimization. 7 And as the NEPA document manager for this EIS, my primary role is a -- as a project manager for this 8 9 effort. I'm also the primary contact for any 10 questions or comments you might have regarding this 11 EIS. My contact information is at the end of this 12 presentation and was included in the newspaper and 13 other announcements for this meeting.

14 So what is the National Nuclear Security 15 Administration? We also call it NNSA. NNSA is a 16 semi-autonomous agency within the United States 17 Department of Energy. It maintains and enhances the 18 safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. 19 nuclear weapons stockpile. One of our primary 20 responsibilities is preventing nuclear weapons 21 proliferation and reducing the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism around the world. 22 23 So what is the Office of Material

24 Management and Minimization? It's also referred to 25 it as M-cubed. The Office of Material Management



1	
1	and Minimization is an NNSA office responsible for
2	minimizing the use of and, where possible,
3	eliminating weapons-usable uranium and plutonium
4	around the world. This is the office that has been
5	charged with dispositioning 34 metric tons of
6	plutonium declared excess to national defense needs.
7	Why are why are we taking this action?
8	What is our purpose and need? Why does NNSA want to
9	disposition 34 metric tons of surplus plutonium?
10	Well, the action that we are discussing fits in with
11	NNSA's mission to reduce the threat of nuclear
12	weapons proliferation worldwide by dispositioning
13	surplus plutonium in the United States in a safe and
14	secure manner, ensuring that it can never again be
15	readily used in nuclear weapons.
16	To that end, NNSA will disposition 34
17	metric tons of surplus plutonium in a safe manner
18	and in a reasonable time frame at a cost consistent
19	with fiscal realities.
20	So let's now talk a little bit about the
21	National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, its
22	purpose and process. NEPA requires a process for
23	any major Federal action that may significantly
24	affect the quality of the human environment. The
25	purpose of NEPA is to ensure that public officials

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1	consider the environmental effects of proposed
2	actions and alternatives in order to foster better
3	decision-making and to provide opportunity for
4	public involvement, including early participation
5	during the scoping process.

6 What is the planned timeline for this NEPA 7 review? Well, the scoping period for this EIS is 45 8 days. It opened on December 16, 2020, when the 9 Notice of Intent was published in the Federal 10 Register, and it will continue through February 1st 11 of 2021. Tonight's scoping meeting is part of this 12 public process.

You can see the preliminary estimates for the other key dates in this NEPA effort. Once public scoping ends, NNSA will begin preparing the Draft EIS. Our goal is to have the Draft EIS finished and published by late December 2021.

The Draft EIS will include a summary of the scoping input received from the public as well as Tribal, Federal, State, and local governments.

21 Once the Draft EIS is published, there is 22 another 45-day public comment period. Our current 23 schedule is to issue a Final EIS by mid-November of 24 2022 with a Record of Decision published by mid-25 December 2022. Please understand that these are

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just preliminary estimates, and dates can be changed as the process proceeds.

З	Next, let's briefly discuss the background
4	and history. I won't discuss every item listed on
5	this slide, but just highlight a few. A more
6	detailed history of the various NEPA actions was
7	provided in the Notice of Intent published for this
8	EIS. There is a link on the NNSA NEPA website. In
9	addition, the relevant history is included in each
10	of the documents referenced on this timeline.
11	First, the process for disposing of
12	surplus plutonium began about 25 years ago when DOE
13	completed the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-
14	Usable Fissile Material Programmatic Environmental
15	Impact Statement in 1996. In this PEIS, DOE
16	evaluated deep borehole, immobilization, and reactor
17	alternatives, each with sub-alternatives, for
18	dispositioning surplus plutonium.

In a 1997 Record of Decision, or ROD, NNSA documented its decisions to, one, immobilize some or all surplus plutonium for disposal in a geologic repository; two, fabricate some surplus plutonium into mixed oxide, MOX, fuel for irradiation in commercial reactors; three, consolidate storage of pit plutonium at Pantex; and, four, consolidate 1 storage of non-pit plutonium at SRS.

2 In 1999, DOE completed the Surplus 3 Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact 4 Statement, the SPD EIS. In the SPD EIS, DOE 5 evaluated immobilization alternatives and MOX fuel 6 fabrication alternatives, as well as siting 7 alternatives for the Mixed-Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, a pit disassembly and conversion facility, 8 9 and an immobilization facility. Since then, 10 proposals on how to permanently disposition of 11 surplus plutonium changed several times, and each 12 step has been supported by an assessment of the 13 impacts to the environment, as NEPA requires. 14 In 2015, NNSA completed the Surplus 15 Plutonium Disposition Supplemental Environmental 16 Impact Statement, the SPD Supplemental EIS. In the 17 SPD Supplemental EIS, NNSA evaluated the MOX Fuel 18 Alternative; the WIPP Alternative, also referred to 19 as plutonium downblending or dilute and dispose; and 20 two variations on immobilization for disposition of 21 6 metric tons of non-pit plutonium and 7.1 metric

22 tons of pit plutonium.

This 13.1 metric tons of surplus
plutonium, for which a disposition path had not
previously been assigned, was in addition to the 34

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metric tons NNSA decided to disposition using the
 MOX approach.

3 In 2016, NNSA issued a ROD to dispose of the six metric tons of non-pit plutonium using the 4 WIPP Alternative, or dilute and dispose. Using that 5 6 approach, NNSA is currently diluting the six metric 7 tons of non-pit plutonium with an adulterant using modified or existing facilities, packaging the 8 material as contact-handled TRU waste, and shipping 9 10 it to WIPP for emplacement.

11 In addition, in 2020, NNSA prepared a Supplement Analysis, an SA. And it was based on the 12 13 analysis presented in the 2015 SPD SEIS to evaluate 14 using dilute and dispose for disposition of 7.1 15 metric tons of non-pit plutonium. And NNSA 16 subsequently issued an Amended ROD, an AROD, to use 17 dilute and dispose to disposition that 7.1 metric tons of the 34-metric-ton mission. This was done to 18 19 support efforts to disposition material that was 20 consolidated in South Carolina.

I know this was complicated, so I again encourage you to read a more detailed history of the various NEPA actions provided in the Notice of Intent that we published for this EIS. There is a link to the NOI on the NNSA NEPA website.

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1	Now I'm going to turn over the
2	presentation of the next few slides to Virginia Kay.
3	Virginia?
4	MS. KAY: Thank you, Jeff.
5	Good evening, everyone. Welcome. My name
6	is Virginia Kay. And I'm the director of the Office
7	of Materials Disposition, the NNSA office that's
8	responsible for the management and permanent
9	disposition of inventories of weapons-usable nuclear
10	material that are in excess of national security
11	needs. I certainly welcome your interest in our
12	program and appreciate your attendance at tonight's
13	scoping meeting as we begin the preparation of a
14	comprehensive EIS for the Surplus Plutonium
15	Disposition Program.
16	The Proposed Action in this EIS is the
17	reconsideration of the disposition path for 34
18	metric tons of plutonium that is in excess of
19	defense needs of the United States. The 34 metric
20	tons of material under consideration in this EIS is
21	comprised of both pit and non-pit plutonium. Pit
22	plutonium comes from the central core of a nuclear
23	weapon, and it's in metal form, while non-pit
24	plutonium may be in either a metal or oxide form.
25	But it's still considered to be weapons-usable

1 material.

Over the last two and a half decades, DOE 2 3 has studied many alternative technologies and locations for the disposition of surplus plutonium. 4 5 DOE had previously decided to disposition the 34 6 metric tons of plutonium by fabricating oxidized 7 plutonium into Mixed Oxide, or MOX, fuel for irradiation and domestic commercial reactors, which 8 9 would be then used to produce electricity.

However, the MOX fuel disposition path is no longer a viable alternative, as the MOX project was terminated in 2018 and the former MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility is being repurposed for another NNSA mission.

15 NNSA needs to complete the analysis in 16 this EIS to determine a disposition process and 17 strategy that can be safely executed in -- within a 18 reasonable time frame and a cost consistent with our 19 current fiscal realities. To maximize efficiency, 20 NNSA is proposing to implement a proven technology 21 that is based on processes that require a minimal 22 research and development and, therefore, minimizes 23 deployment time.

24 NNSA's preferred alternative for the25 disposition of the 34 metric tons of surplus

1 plutonium, pit plutonium and non-pit plutonium, is 2 the dilute and dispose approach, also known as 3 plutonium downblending. Plutonium downblending is a 4 proven technology previously used and currently in 5 use within the DOE complex, as Jeff pointed out 6 earlier.

7 In summary, dilute and dispose requires disassembly of pits, conversion of pit and non-pit 8 plutonium metal to an oxide form. Plutonium oxide 9 10 is then blended with an adulterant mixture in a dry 11 process. This product produces a diluted product that is not readily usable for weapons and can be 12 13 safely disposed of as transuranic waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. 14

The dilute and dispose approach would require new, modified, or existing capabilities within the DOE complex. And the sites under consideration for this program are the Savannah River Site, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Pantex Plant, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Today, the dilute and dispose approach is currently being used to disposition six metric tons of non-pit plutonium that is not considered part of the 34 metric tons.

25

Additionally, most recently, in August



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1	2020, DOE decided to dispose of an additional 7.1	
2	metric tons of surplus non-pit plutonium using the	
3	dilute and dispose approach in order to support	
4	efforts to disposition material that was	
5	consolidated in South Carolina.	
6	The 7.1 metric tons of non-pit plutonium	
7	is part of the 34 metric tons that was originally	
8	designated for the fabrication of mixed oxide fuel.	
9	Slide 11 presents a very high-level system	
10	overview depicting the major steps in the surplus	
11	plutonium disposition process using the dilute and	
12	dispose approach. The intent of this diagram is to	
13	highlight the major steps in this process and is not	
14	intended to address every detailed step in the	
15	dilute and dispose process.	
16	Starting at the top-left corner and moving	
17	clockwise around the diagram, nuclear weapon pits	
18	are first disassembled using a lathe, which is shown	
19	in the first picture. Plutonium metal is then	
20	heated using a high-temperature furnace to form an	
21	oxide. Non-pit plutonium, if not already in oxide	
22	form, is also converted to an oxide using these	
23	high-temperature furnaces.	
24	A disassembly lathe, furnaces, and	
25	associated equipment needed to convert plutonium	

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1	metal to an oxide are located in a series of	
2	gloveboxes that separate workers from the hazardous	
3	material. The oxide is then packaged into	
4	specialized containers, commonly called a 3013, or	
5	an alternative configuration, such as a SAVY or can-	
6	bag-can, all of which are nested can configurations	
7	with multiple layers. These configurations are	
8	compliant with DOE standards for storage and	
9	transfer of plutonium.	
10	Plutonium oxide-bearing containers and	
11	Blend Can Kits prefilled with an adulterant mixture	
12	are introduced into a glovebox used for dilution	
13	processing. The second picture shows an existing	
14	glovebox currently being used for plutonium	
15	downblending at Savannah River Site.	
16	Continuing clockwise, the 3013 or	
17	alternate containers are opened, and a specified	
18	amount of plutonium oxide is added to blend cans	
19	containing the adulterant material. Plutonium oxide	
20	and adulterant are blended using a mixture shown in	
21	Image 4. The blend can is subsequently placed	
22	inside of a robust outer container that's used to	
23	reduce radiological exposure to workers. The	
24	downblending process results in a mixture that is	
25	not readily usable for weapons, and it can be safely	

1 disposed of as transuranic waste at WIPP. Once 2 again, as a point of emphasis, the disassembly, 3 oxidation, and downblending activities all occur 4 within gloveboxes located within secure facilities.

5 After the downblend process is completed, 6 the robust outer containers of diluted surplus 7 plutonium are bagged out of gloveboxes and packaged into Criticality Controlled Overpack containers, 8 commonly called CCOs. The CCOs are metal drums 9 10 approved for offsite shipment and disposal of 11 downblended plutonium. The CCOs are characterized 12 to verify compliance with the WIPP waste acceptance 13 criteria; loaded into shipping packages, commonly 14 called TRUPACT IIs; and then shipped to Waste 15 Isolation Pilot Plant where the resulting 16 transuranic waste is placed over 2,000 feet 17 underground.

18 Slide 12 shows the sites within the DOE 19 complex where dilute and dispose activities would be 20 performed. The majority of the 34 metric tons of 21 surplus plutonium is in pit form, which is staged at 22 the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas. Surplus pits 23 are shipped in approved shipping packages by secure 24 transport to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in 25 New Mexico, which currently maintains the only

1	capability within the complex for disassembling pits
2	and converting plutonium metal to oxide.

The Savannah River Site in South Carolina has an existing capability, the K Area Interim Surveillance glovebox, to dilute plutonium using the processes described on the previous diagram. And it's currently executing a capital project at Savannah River Site to install additional gloveboxes and support systems to expand dilution kit capacity.

10 And lastly, the Waste Isolation Pilot 11 Plant in New Mexico is the final site in the 12 disposition path with the underground disposal of 13 diluted surplus plutonium as transuranic waste.

The next series of slides will show our 14 15 preferred alternative and options being analyzed in 16 this EIS. As previously stated, the dilute and 17 dispose approach is the preferred alternative and is 18 the only technological alternative currently 19 proposed for the scope of this EIS. The Department 20 has extensively evaluated other technological 21 alternatives in previous NEPA analysis and studies 22 and does not believe that other technological 23 approaches could be implemented in a cost-effective 24 manner or within a reasonable time frame. However, 25 NNSA will consider input from stakeholders on other



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1	possible alternatives as part of the scoping process
2	that that you're participating in tonight.
3	The dilute and dispose approach would
4	require new, modified, or existing capabilities at
5	Pantex, Los Alamos, Savannah River Site, and WIPP.
6	The options presented over the next several slides
7	are variants of the dilute and dispose approach,
8	which range from a combination of facilities at
9	several sites to multiple facilities at a single
10	site. However, all options for executing dilute and
11	dispose approach will result in a permanent
12	disposition of diluted surplus plutonium as
13	transuranic waste at WIPP.
14	Slide 13 shows the preferred alternative.
15	Under the preferred alternative, pits would be
16	transferred from Pantex to Los Alamos for
17	disassembly. Both pit and non-pit plutonium, if not
18	already in an oxide form, would be oxidized at Los
19	Alamos and packaged in a 3013 or alternate
20	containers for shipment to Savannah River Site. At
21	Savannah River, the plutonium oxide would be
22	diluted, packaged in CCOs, characterized to ensure
23	compliance with the WIPP waste acceptance criteria,
24	and shipped to WIPP for final disposition.
25	Slide 14 shows Option 1. Under Option 1,



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1	capability for dilution of plutonium oxide and
2	subsequent packaging, characterization, and shipment
3	to WIPP from Los Alamos National Laboratory would
4	would be implemented. In Option 1, LANL would have
5	the full suite of processes required to disassemble
6	pits, oxidize pits, oxidize plutonium metal, dilute
7	plutonium oxide, package diluted surplus plutonium,
8	and ship the resulting transuranic waste to WIPP.
9	Also, under Option 1, Savannah River Site
10	would maintain the capability for dilution,
11	characterization, and packaging. Under this option,
12	the backend processes for downblending could occur
13	at either Los Alamos or Savannah River Site.
14	Moving on to slide 15, this shows Option
15	2. In Option 2, Los Alamos would process nuclear
16	weapons pits and send pit plutonium oxide to
17	Savannah River Site. However, in this option, a
18	supplemental capability for oxidation of non-pit
19	plutonium metal would be installed at Savannah River
20	Site, allowing the oxidation portion of the overall
21	process to either be performed at either Los Alamos
22	or Savannah River Site. Both pit and non-pit
23	plutonium oxide would then be diluted,
24	characterized, packaged, and shipped to WIPP from
25	SRS.

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1	Slide 16 shows a potential Option 3.
2	Option 3 entails new, existing, or modified
3	facilities at Pantex, Los Alamos, and/or Savannah
4	River Site. These facilities would provide the full
5	suite of processes required to execute the dilute
6	and dispose approach from production of plutonium
7	oxide through shipment of the diluted surplus
8	plutonium to WIPP and would supplement or possibly
9	replace the existing or planned processes at Los
10	Alamos and Savannah River Site.
11	And finally, the EIS will also consider a
12	no action alternative, as shown in this slide. The
13	no action alternative would consist of continued
14	safe storage of surplus pit plutonium at Pantex and
15	the disposition of 7.1 metric tons of non-pit
16	plutonium using the dilute and dispose approach as
17	described in the August 2020 Amended Record of
18	Decision.
19	And this completes my portion of the
20	presentation. I very much appreciate your time and
21	appreciate your input. And I'll turn it back over
22	to Jeff.
23	Thanks, Jeff.
24	MR. GALAN: Thanks, Virginia.
25	Well, when a Federal agency undertakes an
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1	EIS, it must analyze the full range of environmental
2	effects of the preferred alternative and of the
3	reasonable alternatives identified in the Draft EIS.
4	Here is a list of the environmental topics that we
5	plan on considering in the SPDP EIS. These include

6 air quality, cultural resources, ecological 7 resources, environmental justice, geology and soils, human health of workers and the public, the human 8 health effects of accidents. And we'll also look at 9 10 the effects on infrastructure, land and visual 11 resources, noise, socioeconomics, transportation, 12 waste management, and water resources.

13 And finally, let's talk about the topics for consideration during the scoping process. 14 NNSA 15 is seeking comments from the public on the following 16 aspects of the SPDP EIS, the appropriate scope of 17 the SPDP EIS, other reasonable alternatives that DOE 18 should consider, and environmental topics that DOE 19 should evaluate in the EIS.

20 Well, this concludes our presentation on 21 the SPDP EIS. Now it's time for the public comment 22 portion of the scoping meeting. How can you provide 23 comments on this EIS? Well, today you can submit 24 oral comments on the scope of the Surplus Plutonium 25 Disposition Program EIS, and they will be



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1	transcribed by a court reporter. You can also leave	
2	a message on voice mail at 803-952-7434. And you	
3	may mail your comment to me at Jeffrey Galan, NNSA	
4	Office of Material Management and Minimization,	
5	Savannah River Site, P.O. Box A, Building 730-2B,	
6	Room 328, Aiken, South Carolina, 29802. Or you may	
7	submit your comments by email to spdp-	
8	eis@nnsa.doe.gov.	
9	If you've already provided a comment by	
10	phone, mail, or email, you do not have to provide it	
11	again tonight. However, you are welcome to do so.	
12	All comments will be treated equally, regardless of	
13	which method you choose to use.	
14	Please remember that the comment period	
15	closes on February 1st, 2021. Please try to submit	
16	your comments before then. Any comments received	
17	after February 1st will be considered to the extent	
18	practical.	
19	Thank you so much for your attention and	
20	your input. Now I'm going to turn it back over to	
21	Dave Goodman for the public comment portion of this	
22	scoping meeting.	
23	Dave?	
24	MR. GOODMAN: Great. Thank you, Jeff and	
25	Virginia.	
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1	So we know that was a lot of information
2	in a pretty short amount of time, and we encourage
3	you to read more at the project website, which you
4	can find at the NNSA NEPA Reading Room.
5	So now we are going to begin the public
6	comment portion of the meeting. To start, we're
7	going to we will rely on the queue of folks that
8	have raised their hand via the WebEx webinar
9	feature, and we'll periodically check in to see if
10	there are any comments from phone participants.
11	To start, we'll be requesting that
12	comments last no longer than three minutes, and I'll
13	be tracking that on the timer that I will pull up on
14	the screen shortly. As your time begins to run
15	short, I'll try to let you know. And when your time
16	expires, I will respectfully ask you to conclude.
17	We appreciate you being respectful of the
18	project staff and your fellow members of the public.
19	Certainly, we don't anticipate that this will be an
20	issue. But in order to make sure everyone has the
21	same amount of time to comment, we may need to mute
22	your line after three minutes. If time permits,
23	when everybody has had the opportunity to provide
24	their comment, you may have the opportunity to
25	provide a second comment.

1

2 comment and you're logged into the webinar, if you 3 hit the Participants button on the bottom right of 4 the screen, that will open the Participants panel, 5 and then you can find the raised hand button at the 6 bottom right of that panel. If you press the raised 7 hand button, that will put you into the queue. 8 Please leave your hand raised so that we're able to 9 track that you want to make a comment.

If you've called in on the phone and are not logged into the webinar, please press Star 3 to be added to the telephone queue and Star 3 to lower your hand after you've made your comment.

Again, we'll start with some questions from those logged into the webinar, and we'll periodically check to see if there are phone comments.

18 For those on the webinar, we'll call you 19 by your display name, and we'll be fairly obvious 20 that it's your turn to provide a comment. For those 21 on the phone, we don't have a method of seeing your 22 name. So when we unmute your line, you may hear a 23 voice telling you that you are unmuted, or you may 24 hear a beep or have seen -- some people don't really 25 hear anything at all. But for all, once you've



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1	given your comment, if you would lower your hand, we	
2	would appreciate it. And you can do that by	
3	pressing Star 3.	
4	Okay. So let's begin. We're first going	
5	to receive comments from Tribal, Federal, State, and	
6	local officials. Again, if you are a Tribal,	
7	Federal, State, or local government official and you	
8	haven't already raised your hand, please raise your	
9	hand in the webinar feature and also send a chat to	
10	our producer, Catherine, noting your status.	
11	Catherine, are we ready for the first	
12	commenter?	
13	MS. HEGWOOD: Sure. Thank you, Dave.	
14	Our first comment is from Chairman Gary	
15	Bunker.	
16	Chairman Gary Bunker, you are unmuted.	
17	MR. BUNKER: All right. Thank you very	
18	much. Can you hear me now?	
19	MR. GOODMAN: We can hear you.	
20	MS. HEGWOOD: Yes, we can.	
21	MR. BUNKER: Excellent. Well, thank you	
22	very much. I do appreciate the opportunity to speak	
23	with you this evening.	
24	As Chairman of the Aiken County Council, I	
25	endorse the National Nuclear Security	

Administration's preferred approach to dilute and 1 2 dispose surplus plutonium at the Savannah River 3 Site. It is my hope that, in conjunction with the plutonium pit project, that these operations at SRS 4 5 will process and remove surplus plutonium from the 6 State of South Carolina, continue to support our 7 country's strategic deterrent, and capitalize on the Savannah River Site's technical expertise and 8 9 outstanding safety record.

10 The Aiken County Council recently passed a 11 unanimous resolution in support of the NNSA's 12 Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program to dilute and 13 dispose of 34 metric tons of excess plutonium. This 14 resolution has been submitted separately with my 15 written comments.

The Council recognized the role that SRS plays in our national security, its ability to support long-term missions, such as treatment and disposal of plutonium waste, and its unique capabilities in the areas of technical competence, safety, environmental protection and security.

The Aiken County Council also noted that SRS has extensive plutonium downblending experience already at the highly secured K Area complex, including significant upgrades to its existing

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1	glovebox, the expansion of operations from one to
2	two shifts, and its plan to increase to four shifts
3	to further increase production.
4	There is widespread support in this
5	community for existing missions, along with newly
6	proposed programs at the Savannah River Site.
7	Specifically, in regards to the SPD Program, the
8	Aiken County Council supports the NNSA's preferred
9	alternative as outlined in the Draft Environmental
10	Impact Statement.
11	Thank you very much for your time. And
12	again, I appreciate the opportunity to comment this
13	evening.
14	MR. GOODMAN: Great. Thank you, Mr.
15	Bunker.
16	And I started the timer. And then I
17	realized after that we were not planning on using
18	the timer for elected officials, so I stopped it.
19	So if you are an elected official and you would like
20	to provide your comment, you have as much time as
21	you would like.
22	Catherine, do we have a subsequent
23	government official?
24	MS. HEGWOOD: We sure do. Our next
25	comment is going to come from Congressman Rick
L	

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1	Allen.
2	It looks like Rick has dropped off. My
3	apologies on that. He's no longer connected to the
4	WebEx.
5	MR. GOODMAN: All right. We'll see if we
6	can get him later if he comes back on.
7	MS. HEGWOOD: Perfect. And that's as
8	far as who have been identified so far, that's all.
9	MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Well, then let's move
10	into the general public portion of the meeting.
11	MS. HEGWOOD: Okay. Great. Thank you.
12	Our first comment will come from Janet.
13	And Janet, you are unmuted.
14	MS. GREENWALD: Thank you.
15	As I'm sure you know, the National Academy
16	of Sciences recently has determined that, in order
17	to receive the surplus plutonium, there would be
18	have to be a violation of the laws and regulations
19	that now govern that. These laws and regulations
20	represent promises that were made to the people of
21	New Mexico concerning WIPP, concerning what kind of
22	waste would come here, how long we would be
23	receiving that waste.
24	We were also promised that there would be
25	other sites to take that waste. Now this proposal

not only proposes that WIPP take waste that is not
 legally possible, it also brings waste to Los Alamos
 to be processed.

I live downwind from Los Alamos. And in my community, which is a farming community, we have been contaminated by Los Alamos over and over again. Los Alamos does not have a good record when it comes to handling any kind of waste.

9 So why is this waste coming here? Why --10 why is there not another repository? Well, some of 11 us believe that it's because we are a minority-12 majority state, which is considered unofficially a 13 sacrifice area. I want to say that you can't be 14 fair to people of color if you illegally dump on 15 them. That's not a fair thing to do.

So I'm hoping you will reconsider your alternatives and not bring this waste to New Mexico, who is already beleaguered with problems that have been caused by the nuclear industry.

20Thank you for this time to comment.21MR. GOODMAN: Thank you so much, Ms.22Greenwald.

23 Catherine, we are still showing that 24 Congressman Allen is showing as an attendee. Can 25 you see if he is on the line?



NNSA Surplus Public Meeting January 26, 2021 NDT Assgn # 36159-1 1 MS. HEGWOOD: He sure is. My apologies 2 for that. 3 Rick, you are -- or Congressman Allen, you 4 are unmuted. 5 CONGRESSMAN ALLEN: Thank you. Can you 6 hear me? 7 MR. GOODMAN: We can. Thank you. CONGRESSMAN ALLEN: 8 Okay. Great. Super. 9 Good evening to everyone. I -- I am 10 grateful to have this opportunity to submit formal 11 comments for the preparation of an Environmental 12 Impact Statement for the Surplus Plutonium 13 Disposition Program. I have enjoyed the 14 presentation thus far and want you to know that the 15 Savannah River Site plays a critical and strategic 16 role in our nation and a key aspect to ensure 17 lasting safety and security. It's finding a 18 permanent solution to dispose these materials. 19 I am supportive of the -- supportive of 20 the efforts of the National Nuclear Security 21 Administration is making to keep good on their 22 promise of processing and removing plutonium from 23 South Carolina as they prepare an Environmental 24 Impact Statement. 25 The Savannah River Site has a longstanding

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1	history of providing safe and successful nuclear	
2	waste management. Our workforce is second to none	
3	and have demonstrated time and again their	
4	commitment to safety. Both South Carolina and my	
5	home state of Georgia support the Savannah River	
6	Site's many missions and work to ensure the ability	
7	to recruit and retain a great workforce.	
8	I thank you for consideration of these	
9	comments, and I look forward to continuing this	
10	process to ensure a safe solution to dispose of	
11	surplus plutonium. Thank you.	
12	MR. GOODMAN: Congressman Allen, thank you	
13	very much for your time tonight and for your	
14	attendance and for your comment.	
15	With that, Catherine, can we move on to	
16	the next?	
17	MS. HEGWOOD: Once again, Congressman	
18	Allen, I do apologize for that.	
19	All right. Our next comment is going to	
20	come from Russell.	
21	Russell, you are unmuted.	
22	MR. LAHODNY: Yes. Thank you.	
23	Good evening. My name is Russell. I am	
24	the president and CEO of the Columbia County Chamber	
25	of Commerce here in Georgia. I'm here to voice our	



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1	support of the Savannah River Site's role in the
2	Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program. We certainly
3	understand the complexity of this issue, but the
4	Savannah River Site is a great steward and partner
5	of the communities in this region, including
6	Columbia County, where more than 1,000 of their
7	employees reside.
8	Knowing the safety track record of SRS, we
9	fully support this program and have the utmost
10	confidence in that workforce, who, again, many of
11	our many of them are our neighbors, and that they
12	will handle this mission with great care and great
13	diligence.
14	So the Chamber is grateful for the quality
15	jobs SRS provides for our community and our region,
16	which in turn plays a significant role here in
17	strengthening our local economy.
18	With that, we thank you for the
19	opportunity to support SRS in this way, and I
20	respectfully relinquish my remaining time.
21	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you so much, Mr.
22	Lahodny.
23	MS. HEGWOOD: Great. Thank you.
24	And our next speaker will be from John.
25	John, you are unmuted.
•	

MR. HEATON: Good evening, my name is John
Heaton, and I am the co-chairman of the Mayor's
Nuclear Task Force here in Carlsbad that has a major
focus on WIPP.

5 The City of Carlsbad in Eddy County stand 6 in strong support of the dilute and dispose approach 7 for the 34 tons of weapons plutonium to be disposed at WIPP. It is ridiculous to think of atoms of 8 plutonium that are on equipment or clothing being 9 10 any different from plutonium atoms being diluted 11 with stardust to a concentration that meets the WIPP 12 waste acceptance criteria.

Dilute plutonium concentrations is what we take at WIPP as TRU waste. The dilute concentration will meet the lowest concentration acceptable at WIPP and will categorically be contact-handled waste.

18 The Task Force has been discussing this 19 possibility for a number of years, and we and the community are convinced from a safety, security, 20 21 proliferation, and cost approach this makes imminent 22 sense. There is no place in the world that compares with WIPP and its 2,000-foot layer of salt to 23 24 permanently dispose of material that will never see 25 the light of day.



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1	Shortly after WIPP's opening, several tons
2	of plutonium from Rocky Flats was diluted and
3	disposed of at WIPP after confirmation by Sandia of
4	the safety of the disposal. The Record of Decision
5	has been issued for the six tons of OPSEC plutonium
6	and the 7.1 tons of non-weapon plutonium, and it is
7	being diluted and ready for WIPP disposal.
8	The 34 tons of plutonium in the EIS is
9	part of this scoping, awaiting a decision to dilute
10	and dispose at WIPP. The system for dilution and
11	disposal process that then includes that includes
12	the four sites is well thought through and, we
13	believe, is the preferred alternative.
14	The National Academy of Sciences has
15	confirmed the efficacy of the dilute and dispose
16	approach at WIPP. The science supports the EIS
17	approach. WIPP is clearly the best alternative to
18	reduce proliferation. Safeguards are eliminated.
19	The separation of the plutonium is virtually
20	impossible. There is an enormous cost saving. The
21	Mayor's Task Force supports it. Plutonium disposal
22	is WIPP's mission. It is what WIPP does.
23	Thank you very much.
24	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you very much, Mr.
25	Heaton.

NNSA Surplus Public Meeting January 26, 2021 NDT Assgn # 36159-1 MS. HEGWOOD: 1 All right. Great. Thank 2 you. 3 And our next speaker is Sharon Rodgers. 4 Sharon, you are unmuted. 5 MS. RODGERS: Hello? 6 MR. GOODMAN: Yes, we can hear you. 7 MS. HEGWOOD: Yes, we can hear you now. 8 MS. RODGERS: Okay. Good. Thank you. 9 Good evening. I'm Sharon Rodgers, and I'm 10 the president of the United Way of Aiken County. I have lived in Aiken County for over four years. 11 Ι wish to offer my support of the National Nuclear 12 13 Security Administration's efforts related to its 14 preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for 15 its Surplus Plutonium Disposition, SPD, Program, 16 which will involve Savannah River Site and other DOE 17 sites across the nation. 18 The NNSA's preferred option to dilute and 19 dispose of this surplus plutonium will safely and 20 securely process this material to ensure it cannot 21 be used in nuclear weapons. This option will also 22 remove the surplus plutonium from South Carolina. 23 SRS is a world-class safety culture in 24 extensive expertise in plutonium downblending at its 25 highly secure K Area complex. The SPD project will

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add three additional gloveboxes and support
 infrastructure, along with additional hiring, to
 significantly accelerate the removal of the surplus
 plutonium from South Carolina.

5 Today, SRS continues to make significant 6 progress on both its national defense missions and 7 environmental cleanup commitments. SRS has the 8 secure nuclear materials processing infrastructure, 9 talented workforce, and community support to make it 10 uniquely suited to fulfill such an important 11 production mission.

12 The Savannah River Site has been operating 13 safely in Aiken County for over 70 years. The United Way of Aiken County owes its very existence 14 15 to SRS. SRS contractors and employees are active 16 and engaged partners in our community. They are our 17 qo-to supporters. They're our largest contributors, helping to support 30 partner agencies and 45 18 19 critical need programs, benefitting vulnerable 20 seniors, children, disabled, under-employed, and 21 people in crisis. They provide the four Ts -- time, 22 talent, treasure, and testimony. 23 This past year, over 300 volunteers worked

24 at 20 separate and different sites during our Day of 25 Caring. These volunteers serve as our board members

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1	and committee members. They help support our	
2	schools and provide our community with many	
3	resources. They are our partners and improve lives	
4	in our communities.	
5	We support the NNSA's proposed	
6	downblending plan, and we have full confidence in	
7	the SRS workforce to safely and securely complete	
8	this mission. I am honored to support SRS. They	
9	care about our community and their mission to make	
10	the world safer.	
11	Thank you so much for giving me this	
12	opportunity to speak.	
13	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you very much, Ms.	
14	Rodgers.	
15	MS. HEGWOOD: Thank you.	
16	And our next speaker is going to be Scott	
17	Kovac.	
18	Scott, you are unmuted.	
19	MR. KOVAC: Good evening. Thank you for	
20	this opportunity to comment on the Draft	
21	Supplemental I mean the Draft Surplus Plutonium	
22	Disposition Program EIS.	
23	I want to make it clear from the start	
24	that we are strong advocates for the permanent	
25	disposal of plutonium so it cannot be used again in	

nuclear weapons. An Environmental Impact Statement 1 2 is required to analyze all major impacts of a 3 proposed project and compare those impacts to critical alternatives. This EIS should weigh and 4 5 consider the public security and economic benefits 6 of all options, which is more than it appears to be 7 offered in this EIS as it stands. It was stated that dilute and dispose is 8

9 the only option being considered in this EIS. But 10 then again -- but then later it was stated other 11 reasonable alternatives the DOE should consider, you 12 know, was open for comment from the public. It 13 seems like DOE and NNSA are eliminating options. 14 They are eliminating reasonable alternatives. All 15 alternatives must be analyzed, including 16 immobilization.

17 It was -- it was also stated that a 18 reasonable time frame and current fiscal respond --19 reasonable time frame and current fiscal realities 20 must be taken -- will be taken into account. Well, 21 this violates NEPA. All -- all -- all -- all 22 realities and all options must be open for 23 discussion and analyzation. 24 A new Programmatic EIS is needed. NNSA is 25 not in compliance with NEPA and should not proceed



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1	to an Environmental Impact Statement. This is	
2	because this as the the EIS has tiered off the	
3	1996 Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable	
4	Fiscal Fissile Materials Programmatic EIS, using	
5	using using that broader, but now outdated,	
6	document as its foundation. NNSA's new proposals	
7	are so fundamentally different from the program and	
8	alternatives discussed in 1996 that a new or	
9	supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact	
10	Statement is needed.	
11	I just wanted to before we go, I wanted	
12	to compare your slide number 7 to your slide number	
13	8. I mean slide 7 is just the NEPA process, and	
14	slide 8 is the the NEPA process as it's been for	
15	this EIS. You know, it's much, much, much, much	
16	more complicated.	
17	Thank you. I'd like to say one more	
18	thing. Just place all reference documents online.	
19	Thank you.	
20	MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Thank you for your	
21	comment, Mr. Kovac.	
22	MS. HEGWOOD: Great. Thank you.	
23	And our next speaker is Barbara Warren.	
24	Barbara, you are unmuted.	
25	MS. WARREN: Oh, thank you. Can you hear	
L		

1 me?

2

MR. GOODMAN: We can.

3 MS. WARREN: Oh, okay. I'm -- I'm coming a little late to this -- this particular issue at 4 5 this time. I had read months ago a GAO report about 6 the fact that the -- the MOX program at Savannah 7 River was being canceled because of the -- the large and ballooning expenses to -- to create MOX. 8 And so that GAO report was talking about the -- that -- at 9 that time the consideration of dilute and dispose. 10 11 So again, I'm coming in late to this. But

12 what I see here is we're -- we're again oxidizing 13 fuel, and then we're diluting it and -- to be 14 disposed. I don't remember further oxidation at the 15 time in the GAO report. So I'm having a little 16 difficulty with this.

17 And I'm just -- I guess I'm questioning what -- you haven't said anything about the cost of 18 19 this whole project. And obviously, you had a huge 20 problem with the cost of the MOX program in the 21 You're now talking about using -- I believe past. 22 it was four different facilities for aspects of 23 this. And -- and, of course, some of these 24 facilities have had trouble with criticality, and 25 they haven't been able to fix that either.



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So I'm going to have to read up and -- and look a lot more at what's going on here. But I really would like to understand why there's an oxidation step again before you do the dilute and

5 dispose. That was certainly not discussed in the 6 GAO document that I had read previously. And I -- I 7 hope the documents are available because I really 8 want to read them.

Thank you very much.

MR. GOODMAN: Thank you, Ms. Warren. And just to reiterate, all documents that we -- and the PowerPoint that was given tonight and -- and relevant documents are all on the NNSA NEPA Reading Room website.

15 MS. HEGWOOD: All right. Great. Thank16 you.

17 And we are -- that's -- it -- that's as far as the people that are logged into the WebEx. 18 19 We are going to take phone call from -- phone call-20 in users only now. We're going to call on call-in 21 user number 18. 22 You are unmuted if you could please state 23 your name. Thank you. 24 DR. REVELL: Yes. 25 MR. GOODMAN: For the --



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1	DR. REVELL: My name
2	MR. GOODMAN: Oh, there you go. We can
3	hear you.
4	DR. REVELL: Yes. My name is Tim Revell.
5	I have some history with this because I was in
6	Hereford, Texas, when they tried to put the dump
7	just north of that town. I now live in Amarillo.
8	And the the reason that they picked
9	this area to put the dump in at that time was we had
10	a less than one person per square mile and that our
11	salt dome was 2 percent water. Water, apparently,
12	migrates when the plutonium or the fissionable
13	material is put into the salt domes. And this is
14	why the dump that was in Russia blew up.
15	This area is particularly heavy in
16	farming. We grow greater than 50 percent of the red
17	wheat that is used to make bread. It supplies all
18	the most of the seed, over 50 percent of the
19	seed, for Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas.
20	Also, we have a large dairy industry.
21	There are probably greater than 15 dairies within 50
22	miles of Amarillo and where Pantex is located. We
23	also have large cattle industry here in the 26
24	counties in the panhandle. So it would be
25	absolutely disastrous to our food chain if any
L	

1 accidents ever happened.

But they have happened at -- at the WIPP project. Several years ago, there was a fire. And the -- we are downwind from that facility. And there was only a small, short article in the newspaper that we were downwind, and nothing was ever done as far as checking on the contaminants. None of that was published. So --

9 MR. GOODMAN: I'm just noting you have 20 10 seconds left.

11DR. REVELL: All right. And so I would12just like to have them consider -- consider not13consider either the WIPP project or Pantex.

14 Thank you.

24

15 **MR. GOODMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Revell.

If -- for -- for purposes of our scoping report, if you wouldn't mind spelling your last name, we would appreciate that. But you can also remain anonymous, if you prefer.

20 DR. REVELL: Yes. It's Tim Revell, R-e-v-21 e-l-l. I am a local --

22 MR. GOODMAN: Great.

23 DR. REVELL: -- physician.

- MR. GOODMAN: Great. Thank you very much.
- 25 MS. HEGWOOD: And that is all of the

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1 raised hands for now.

2 MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Well, it sounds like 3 we've heard from everybody in the queue at this 4 point.

Again, if you were not able or chose not to make a comment in this forum, hopefully not a technical issue, but if you were not able to, you have a number of options for doing so either by phone, mail, or email.

I'm going to stop sharing the timer for right now. Yep. And I think we can see the How to Provide Comments on the screen again. So you can send your comments either by phone, by mail, or by email, as shown on the screen.

And I guess for those on the phone, I'll just repeat the phone number -- 803-952-7434. And I'll repeat the email address -- spdpeis@nnsa.doe.gov. And again, comments are due by

19 February 1st.

So I know we gave everybody three minutes to start. If anybody that's on the phone or on the webinar would like to extend their comment, we'd be happy to give you three more minutes. So if anybody would like to do that and you'd like to raise your hand, please go ahead and do that.



Regardless, we are going to leave the 1 2 webinar and the phone lines open until the end of 3 the advertised time of the meeting tonight. So you are welcome to stay, but you are certainly not 4 5 required to stay. And we're going to check in 6 periodically to make -- see if there's anybody that 7 joined late that would like to make a comment or anybody that would like to make a second comment. 8

9 For those of you that have provided your 10 comment tonight or that have just listened to this 11 point in the process, we sincerely appreciate your interest in the Surplus Plutonium Disposition 12 13 Program EIS and the time that you took to attend tonight's meeting. Your interest and your 14 15 participation is really very appreciated. 16 So for those of you that would like to 17 drop off, you're welcome to. I guess I'll check one 18 more time to see if we've had anybody re-raise their

19 hand or any new hand raising.

20 MS. HEGWOOD: All right. We do have --21 Scott Kovac has raised his hand again.

Scott, you are unmuted.

23 MR. GOODMAN: Great.

22

24 MR. KOVAC: This EIS must evaluate all 25 options for disposal of plutonium as waste. NNSA's



disposition program should programmatically 1 2 reevaluate the disposal of plutonium in -- as waste, immobilizing glass and/or ceramic. Immobilization 3 has the promise of being quicker and cheaper and 4 5 safer than MOX and would -- and would ambiguous --6 unambiguously be a genuine proliferation program. 7 However, in 19- -- I mean, however, in 2002, DOE made the decision to cancel the surplus plutonium 8 9 immobilization program.

10 NNSA must reconsider its preferred 11 alternative. A construction of a new geologic 12 repository instead of expanding WIPP must be 13 analyzed. The impact of expanded plutonium operations on this proposal must be explained fully. 14 15 As you know, there's currently an expansion of 16 plutonium -- plutonium pit operations proposed by 17 NNSA. And you know, they're going to be shipping a 18 lot of plutonium parts back and forth across the 19 country, in addition to anything that this EIS is 20 planning. So those two need to be analyzed and 21 considered together. 22 The impact of more plutonium on cleanup at

22 The impact of more plutonium on cleanup at 23 LANL must be analyzed. Right now, Los Alamos and --24 and SRS, you know, have cleanup programs, most of 25 them. LANL's is a little bit smaller than SRS's.

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1	But the impacts of the cleanup at the at SRS and	
2	Los Alamos must be analyzed.	
3	All Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety	
4	Board concerns must be met. Transportation is going	
5	to be a major part of this EIS. And you know, the	
6	number of estimated shipments, the amount of	
7	plutonium, the amount of miles all must be, of	
8	course, estimated and analyzed.	
9	The the review this programmatic	
10	this review must analyze the impacts of more	
11	plutonium waste at WIPP. It is unlikely that WIPP's	
12	current limits can accommodate NNSA's proposal for	
13	surplus plutonium.	
14	There is also increasing suggestion that	
15	WIPP may also be asked to dispose of other	
16	radioactive waste. And once again, WIPP WIPP	
17	WIPP we need a rigorous review of what WIPP can	
18	realistically handle in its current state.	
19	And NNSA should rethink this EIS.	
20	Instead, it should prepare a new Programmatic	
21	Environmental Impact Statement on plutonium storage	
22	and disposition that includes analysis of all	
23	credible alternatives and and could better	
24	achieve the nuclear nonproliferation goals of our	
25	country.	

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NNSA Surplus Public Meeting January 26, 2021 NDT Assgn # 36159-1 Page 54 1 Thank you. 2 MR. GOODMAN: Great. Thanks again, Mr. 3 Kovac. Catherine, have we had anybody else that 4 5 has raised their hand or raised their hand a second 6 time? 7 MS. HEGWOOD: Yes. We do have a call-in 8 user 11. 9 I'm going to unmute you. Please announce 10 your name and spell your last name. There you are. 11 You are unmuted. 12 MR. MCCOY: This is David McCoy. Am I 13 online? 14 MR. GOODMAN: Yes, you are. 15 MR. MCCOY: Hello? Okay. 16 MR. GOODMAN: We can hear you. Yep. 17 MR. MCCOY: Thank you. 18 There's a need to halt this entire 19 project. It violates prior representations to the 20 State of New Mexico. You need a Programmatic 21 Environmental Impact Statement. This continues past 22 violations of human rights and environmental 23 justice. In New Mexico, we already had uranium 24 mining with improper cleanup, exposure of people. 25 We had detonation of an atomic bomb with poisoned



1 downwinders.

2	We have a continuing program to produce
3	more pits at Los Alamos National Laboratories, which
4	gives this entire project as being represented to
5	stop proliferation as being very hypocritical.
6	There are plans to bring all of the nation's nuclear
7	reactor waste to New Mexico. That's not considered
8	in any of this as part of the total picture of how
9	much radiation we are going to be exposed to in New
10	Mexico. You're leaving unsafe nuclear waste at
11	sites in New Mexico, such as at the Mixed Waste
12	Landfill and and LANL Area G. There's not a
13	single site in the DOE complex that hasn't
14	contaminated soil, air, and water and people.
15	There's an absence of a geological
16	repository for this material. There's been an
17	ongoing shell game about disposition plans that come
18	and go like the wind. WIPP was never approved with
19	a current disposition program in mind. WIPP has
20	been program problematic, even to what was
21	originally proposed, had a fire, explosion, release
22	of plutonium.
23	This is one of the most dangerous and
24	toxic substances on the planet. But you're not

25 talking about that. And that is in extremely minute

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1	quantities and a substance that remains toxic and	
2	dangerous for at least a quarter million years.	
3	Now, human error is always a factor in the	
4	handling of these materials, and we have not been	
5	100 percent effective in not exposing people, both	
6	at laboratories and elsewhere, to this material.	
7	Plutonium is is forever once you release it into	
8	the human environment. The more handling of the	
9	plutonium, the greater are all the human health and	
10	environmental possibilities for exposure. So I	
11	think you're really missing a discussion of just how	
12	toxic it is and the longevity and potential for	
13	environmental release.	
14	There's been numerous problems with	
15	glovebox exposures at Los Alamos National	
16	Laboratories. And I'd like to know how you're going	
17	to dispose of all the RCRA materials that may be	
18	involved in in any of this process. How are you	
19	going to dispose of the gloveboxes, all the gloves,	
20	all of the laboratory equipment that the workers are	
21	wearing, et cetera, et cetera. That needs to all be	
22	set forth.	
23	So I think you're really setting up a	
24	program that is going to be capable of releasing	
25	quantities of plutonium into the environment, and I	

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1	don't see a proper solution to it.	
2	And I, for one, distrust the NNSA. You're	
3	a secretive organization. You don't clean up	
4	adequately after yourself. That's been brought home	
5	clearly to me at the Mixed Waste Landfill at Sandia	
6	National Laboratories and the 63-acre facility at	
7	Area G at Los Alamos National Laboratories and the	
8	subsurface disposal area at the Idaho National	
9	Laboratories where you could have enough water come	
10	in there that the EPA was worried that the plutonium	
11	would go critical from flooding.	
12	So I don't think you've got your your	
13	plans very well figured out yet. You need to do a	
14	lot more homework and protection of the public.	
15	Thank you.	
16	MR. GOODMAN: Thanks, Mr. McCoy. And	
17	thanks for coming back and providing your comment	
18	tonight. I believe you did yesterday as well. So	
19	thank you for that.	
20	Catherine, do we have any other	
21	commenters?	
22	MS. HEGWOOD: We sure do. We have another	
23	call user 18 has raised his hand again.	
24	You are unmuted.	
25	MR. REVELL: Yes. Again, this is Tim	



Revell in Amarillo. Basically, I think that the --1 I agree with the last gentleman's distrust and poor 2 3 planning by your agency. When we fought this in the early '80s, one of the transportation deficits that 4 5 they tried to pawn off on us was to have a container 6 drop three feet on a two-inch peg and to see if it 7 would puncture the peg. It did not include any speed of the vehicle or anything like that, and they 8 called that a good study. 9 10 The other thing is, is that we do have a

11 lot of wind here. If, in fact, on an average day, 12 if there were a spill, they estimated that they 13 would have to pick up three feet of dirt for a six-14 mile stretch and being one mile wide. That's things 15 like a large contaminated area.

The other thing is, is that these The other thing is, is that these conditions are probably more than 200 days a year. And so it puts every place between here and your origin in severe chances of being contaminated.

So I think that I agree with the gentleman just prior to me. You need to do more studies, and they need to be segregated into several different areas and then published so that we can be sure that your agency has been doing its due diligence. And that's all I have. Thank you very



NNSA Surplus Public Meeting January 26, 2021 NDT Assgn # 36159-1 much for allowing us to talk. 1 MR. GOODMAN: Of course. And thank you, 2 3 Mr. Revell. MS. HEGWOOD: Great. Thank you. 4 5 And at this time, that is the last raised 6 hand. 7 MR. GOODMAN: Okay. So once again, if there is anybody that has recently joined the 8 meeting and you would like to raise your hand and 9 10 provide a comment, or if you've provided a comment already or even a second comment, you're welcome to 11 12 raise your -- your hand again. 13 In order to do that, on the right side of 14 the screen, there is a hand button that will flag 15 that and put you in the queue. And if you're on the 16 phone, you can press Star 3 to get in the queue. 17 I don't think we have anybody else right 18 So I quess we will go on pause for a second. now. 19 But if anybody does come on, Catherine, 20 please let us know, and we will -- we'll be back. 21 MS. HEGWOOD: All right. Sure thing. 22 Thank you. 23 MR. GOODMAN: And again, for -- for those 24 that did provide their -- their input at tonight's 25 meeting and have been here since the beginning, we -

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1	- we really appreciate your your time and your	
2	interest and your attention and and your comments	
3	as well. So thank you again.	
4	(WHEREUPON, the line remained open without	
5	public comment from audio time 1:23:09 to 2:12:38.)	
6	MR. GOODMAN: Hi, Catherine. It sounds	
7	like we may have a commenter on the phone or on the	
8	webinar.	
9	MS. HEGWOOD: Hi. Yes, sure.	
10	State Senator Tom Young, if you are	
11	calling in if you are calling in using the phone	
12	only, can you please press Star 3? And that will	
13	put you in the queue, and I will be able to unmute	
14	you.	
15	Perfect. Thank you. You are unmuted.	
16	Thank you.	
17	SENATOR YOUNG: Hey, good evening. Thank	
18	you very much.	
19	MR. GOODMAN: Yeah. Thank you for calling	
20	in.	
21	SENATOR YOUNG: I would like to offer	
22	these comments on behalf of the Aiken County	
23	Legislative Delegation. My name is Tom Young, and I	
24	represent Senate District 24, which is all within	
25	Aiken County. And these comments are on behalf,	

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1	again, of all of our entire Legislative
2	Delegation, which is composed of myself; Senator
3	Shane Massey from the Senate District 25; Senator
4	Nikki Setzler from Senate District 26; Bart
5	Blackwell from House District 81; William Clyburn
6	from House District 82; Bill Hixon from House
7	District 83; Melissa Lackey Oremus, House District
8	84; and Bill Taylor from House District 86.

9 We ask that you please accept these 10 comments on the Environmental Impact Statement 11 scoping for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition 12 Program preferred method of dilute and dispose for 13 11 and a half metric tons of surplus plutonium 14 currently stored at the Savannah River Site.

For 70 years, the Savannah River Site has been the most significant economic driver to the growth of our region, and its national security missions continue today in maintaining our nation's nuclear deterrent.

20 We support the current and future missions 21 at Savannah River Site, and we appreciate NNSA's 22 commitment to an exit strategy for the surplus 23 plutonium that is now securely stored at Savannah 24 River -- Savannah River Site. This is a move to 25 fulfill the agreements in the 2020 settlement



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1	between the South Carolina Attorney General Alan
2	Wilson and the people of South or South Carolina.
3	Additionally, we are informed that there
4	are no anticipated negative environmental impacts
5	with this dilute and dispose method, which will
6	safely ensure that the plutonium cannot be used in
7	weapons. Further, and importantly, Savannah River
8	Site has the skilled workforce that is, the
9	employees with the experience and safety record
10	to complete the proposed downblending mission to
11	accelerate the timeline for dispositioning this
12	surplus plutonium and its removal from our state.
13	In view of all of the above, we urge the
14	NNSA to move forward on this important mission. We
15	thank you again for considering these comments, and
16	we hope that you will move this program forward and
17	give this mission to the Savannah River Site.
18	Thank you.
19	MR. GOODMAN: Great. Thank you so much,
20	State Senator Young. We appreciate your time and
21	your your comments tonight.
22	SENATOR YOUNG: Thank you very much. You
23	all have a good evening.
24	MR. GOODMAN: Thank you. All right. You,
25	too.

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1	Catherine, is there anybody else on the	
2	phone or on the webinar that is potentially in the	
3	queue?	
4	MS. HEGWOOD: I do not show any raised	
5	hands at this time.	
6	MR. GOODMAN: All right. I guess we will	
7	go back into music mode then. Thank you.	
8	MS. HEGWOOD: Thank you.	
9	(WHEREUPON, the line remained open without	
10	public comment from audio time 2:16:31 to 2:57:19.)	
11	MS. HEGWOOD: All right. And we do have a	
12	raised hand, Dave	
13	MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Perfect.	
14	MS. HEGWOOD: raised hand. All right.	
15	We have a raised hand from Dan Solitz.	
16	Dan, you are unmuted.	
17	MR. SOLITZ: Hello. Thank you for holding	
18	this, and sorry you had to spend your evening just	
19	listening to music.	
20	This is Dan Solitz. I'm on the Oregon	
21	Hanford Cleanup Board and the Hanford Advisory	
22	Board, though I'm speaking strictly for myself. And	
23	I don't know if it's probably not really germane	
24	to the EIS that you're considering today, but	
25	there's a there's a as you're well aware of,	



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1 I'm sure, the situation, well, there really isn't a 2 rational system within the country to dispose of 3 hazardous and -- and nuclear waste. And your --4 your -- your quandary was mentioned in the DOE 5 December report -- 2020 report to Congress.

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6 And it just seems to be like -- and I'm --7 I guess I'm speaking more to you as DOE folks and some -- than folks that are -- that are managing 8 this EIS. And it -- hopefully, you will bring this 9 10 back. And -- and you're probably already talking 11 amongst yourselves about some way to -- to approach 12 Congress, to approach this problem in a more larger, 13 rational manner, somewhat similar to what happened before Yucca Mountain was sited and in -- in kind of 14 15 the context of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. 16

17 So I'm just hoping that some of this will 18 filter back into your department and back into --19 into -- to sort of get everybody together on the 20 same page as far as going to Congress and -- and 21 getting some action done there that'll make it 22 easier to -- to -- to take care of all of this --23 this -- this nuclear waste. I'm certainly not 24 taking a position that disposing of the TRU waste 25 from Hanford is more important than getting that --

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1	that weapons-grade plutonium out of circulation.	
2	So anyway, well, good luck, and and	
3	thank you for taking the time to listen to me.	
4	MR. GOODMAN: Of course. And thank you	
5	for joining us tonight and appreciate your comment.	
6	Anybody else for now, Catherine?	
7	MS. HEGWOOD: I do not see any other	
8	raised hands at this time.	
9	MR. GOODMAN: Okay. Thank you.	
10	(WHEREUPON, the line remained open without	
11	public comment from audio time 2:59:38 to 4:00:29.)	
12	MR. GOODMAN: All right. Well, it looks	
13	like we've only got a minute left until 11:00	
14	o'clock Eastern. So I would like to take this	
15	chance to thank all of the panelists and staff that	
16	helped put these meetings together and thank	
17	Catherine, in particular, for walking us through the	
18	process and helping us through all of our questions	
19	really appreciate that.	
20	And apologies to Alvaro, our translator,	
21	that he never had a comment to translate, but	
22	appreciate him sticking in as well.	
23	THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.	
24	MR. GOODMAN: Oh, you are still there.	
25	Great. Well, maybe next time, but thank you.	

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1	THE INTERPRETER: All right. Thank you.	
2	MR. GOODMAN: Okay. I guess, with that,	
3	Catherine, I will kick it over to you, and you can	
4	close us out.	
5	MS. HEGWOOD: All right. Thank you,	
6	everyone.	
7	And this concludes today's event. You may	
8	now disconnect your lines and have a great rest of	
9	your day.	
10	(WHEREUPON, the meeting was concluded.)	
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, Karynn S. Willman, do hereby certify that
4	the proceeding named herein was professionally transcribed
5	on the date set forth in the certificate herein; that I
6	transcribed all testimony adduced and other oral
7	proceedings had in the foregoing matter; and that the
8	foregoing transcript pages constitute a full, true, and
9	correct record of such testimony adduced and oral
10	proceeding had and of the whole thereof.
11	
12	IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my
13	hand this 4th day of February, 2021.
14	
15	
16	paryon S. Wellman
17	1 august Sittleman
18	
19	Karynn S. Willman
20	
21	
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