

“NNSA is committed to protecting the health, safety, and security of the public as we conduct our important national security missions.”

- Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty, NNSA Administrator

Overview

December 2017: the **U.S. District Court** in South Carolina **ordered the Department of Energy (DOE) to remove no less than one metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from the state** within two years.

April 2018: DOE/NNSA began proactively engaging in good faith with senior leadership within the state of Nevada on this issue.

August 2018: NNSA completed a Supplement Analysis (SA) to comply with the court order, which identified that the material would be shipped out of South Carolina and temporarily staged at three locations: Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas; the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS); and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). August 27, 2018, after SA completion, **notifications were made to state, local, and congressional stakeholders providing information specific to this material and its strategic use**. Follow-up briefs were offered.

November 2018: congressional stakeholders were notified of the completion of the report, mandated by Congress, titled **“Plan to Remove One Metric Ton of Plutonium from South Carolina.”** The report was hand delivered to Congress, explaining staging at the NNSS DAF would be temporary and the shipments would be accomplished through NNSA’s Office of Secure Transportation (OST).

As of **November 2018, approximately one half metric ton was safely and securely shipped to NNSS for staging** within the DAF. This **occurred prior to the filing of the state of Nevada lawsuit** on November 30, 2018, seeking to stop the shipment of the plutonium.

The weapons-grade plutonium shipped to NNSS is not waste. This material is designated as defense programs material, with a clear purpose for use. The end-state for this weapons-grade plutonium will be the LANL Plutonium Facility (PF-4), where it will be processed into pits for use in our nuclear weapons stockpile.



NNSS represents a nearly \$1 billion annual economic impact in Nevada. The state of Nevada and its citizens contribute to vital national security missions every day. The **nearly 3,000 Nevadans employed by NNSS support our nuclear deterrent with research and development, prevent the proliferation of nuclear material, and enhance our capability to counter terrorism around the globe.** NNSA is investing about \$1 billion over the next six years to upgrade facilities at NNSS that are necessary for these missions.

Shipment

Shipment was made using DOE-certified, Department of Transportation-compliant containers designed to withstand extreme conditions. Before shipment, the shipping containers are inspected and certified for shipment.

Office of Secure Transportation (OST)

OST is responsible for the safe and secure transport of government-owned nuclear materials in the contiguous United States. Information specific to routes and dates of material movement are classified to ensure operational security. These shipments can contain nuclear weapons or components such as enriched uranium or plutonium. These materials are transported in highly-modified secure tractor-trailers and escorted by armed federal agents in accompanying vehicles for additional security.

OST agents provide in-depth, unclassified briefings to state, county, and city law enforcement first responders and public safety agencies nationwide as part of a liaison program to spread awareness of the mission. OST attended the Emergency Management and Fire Chiefs Conference in Carson City June 20-22, 2018, and briefed the Nevada Department of Emergency Management in Las Vegas July 15.



OST Replacement Armored Tractor and Safeguards Transporter

Device Assembly Facility (DAF)

DAF is a collection of more than 30 individual steel-reinforced concrete buildings connected by a rectangular corridor. The buildings are separated by compacted earth which covers the entire 100,000-square-foot facility. Located in the south-central interior section of NNSA, its remoteness provides a substantial safety zone for the general public and adds to the security of the facility. **A dedicated segment of the NNSA security force is located at the facility, providing it with a high-degree of armed security presence.**



Device Assembly Facility at Nevada National Security Site

Activities at DAF comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. DOE's Technical Safety Requirements for DAF are implemented via facility operating procedures to ensure all canisters are inspected annually for signs of corrosion, leakage, bulging, warping, damage, or discoloration. **DAF has been used to stage plutonium and other nuclear materials prior to the receipt of the approximately one half metric ton of material from the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.**

Supplement Analysis (SA)

The SA for the removal of one metric ton of plutonium from South Carolina to Nevada, Texas, and New Mexico (DOE/EIS-0236-S4-SA-01, July 2018) incorporated other NEPA evaluations, including the 2013 Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Continued Operation of DOE/NNSA NNSA and the Off-Site Locations in the state of Nevada (DOE/EIS-0426, referred to as the 2013 NNSA SWEIS). The 2013 NNSA SWEIS addresses staging of nuclear materials in Chapters 3, 5, Appendices A and G, and also demonstrates strict compliance with all applicable requirements.

Section 3.2.4.1 of the SA addressed the potential radiological impacts from staging, repackaging, and preparation for shipment of the nuclear material. This included estimates of radiological impacts to workers and the public.