

# National Nuclear Security Administration Fact Sheet

## Preliminary Notice of Violation: Nuclear Safety Violations at the Y-12 National Security Complex

On April 6, 2020, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) for violations of Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear safety requirements. CNS is the management and operating contractor at DOE's NNSA Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN.

The violations are associated with the accumulations of fissile material in Building 9212 process areas, including the knockout glovebox, the Holden gas furnace, and the casting line. The amounts of fissile material present exceeded the assumptions of the criticality safety evaluations established for those process areas. The PNOV cites failures to comply with DOE nuclear safety requirements established in 10 C.F.R. Part 830, *Nuclear Safety Management*. This enforcement action only encompasses the events and associated nuclear safety violations that occurred prior to the July 25, 2019, enforcement conference. NNSA reserves the right to consider for additional enforcement action any events and continuing violations that occurred subsequent to the enforcement conference.

NNSA identified 12 Severity Level II violations and 1 Severity Level III violation in: (1) implementation of the inadvertent accumulation prevention program; (2) procedural compliance; (3) evaluation of process changes; (4) establishing roles and responsibilities; and (5) performance of root cause analyses.

NNSA reduced the contract fee awarded to CNS in the fiscal year 2018 performance evaluation by approximately \$800,000 in response to deficiencies in criticality safety. In consideration of the mitigating factors and the fee previously withheld, NNSA proposes no civil penalty for the violations cited in this PNOV. NNSA will continue to monitor the corrective actions implemented by CNS to address the regulatory violations and sustain compliance with DOE nuclear safety requirements.

Section 234A of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes NNSA to take regulatory actions under 10 C.F.R. Part 820, *Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities*, against NNSA contractors for violations of DOE nuclear safety requirements. DOE's enforcement program encourages contractors to identify and correct nuclear safety deficiencies at an early stage, before they result in, or contribute to, more serious safety events.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the DOE website at <http://energy.gov/ea/services/enforcement>.