

**Testimony Statement of
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Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
And Administrator of the
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
Before the
House Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces**

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Chairman Cooper, Ranking Member Lamborn, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget for the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). NNSA greatly appreciates the Committee's bipartisan support for our nuclear security mission and for the talented and dedicated workforce responsible for carrying it out every day.

The Department meets its enduring national security mission by maintaining and modernizing the nuclear weapons stockpile so that it is always safe, secure, reliable, and effective; by reducing global nuclear threats; and by providing the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers with militarily effective propulsion systems. NNSA remains uniquely qualified to fulfill these tasks on behalf of the American people and in support of our allies and partners.

The NNSA FY 2023 budget request is informed by the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review and reflects today's increasingly complex geopolitical environment. Importantly, the budget request provides full support for the significant nuclear weapons design and production required to modernize all three legs of the nuclear triad. Once complete, this effort will provide the U.S. with a safer, more secure, and more reliable stockpile that, together with the Department of Defense (DoD) modernization programs, will provide the U.S. with a modern nuclear deterrent capable of responding to a wider array of challenges. The FY 2023 budget request also includes continued funding for the NNSA infrastructure revitalization program needed to produce the weapons and materials for the planned program of record and create an enterprise that is more resilient and flexible. Funding for research, technology, and engineering needed for stockpile certification and innovation activities is maintained in the request.

At the same time, the FY 2023 budget request recognizes we must press ahead with our nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear counterterrorism and counterproliferation efforts as a complementary approach to respond to geopolitical realities. These programs continue efforts to implement and support robust security and safeguards for nuclear materials; shift commercial, research, and medical industries away from highly radioactive materials and technologies; and develop technologies for early detection of proliferation activity. This request recognizes the increased efforts required as nuclear power expands around the world in response to climate

change, and as Russia, China, and North Korea continue to diversify and expand their nuclear arsenals.

The NNSA budget request provides the support needed for Naval Reactors to continue work designing, producing, operating, and maintaining the nuclear propulsion plants for U.S. nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers. The request also fully supports three critical initiatives: the COLUMBIA-class ballistic missile submarine reactor systems development; construction of the Naval Spent Fuel Handling Facility; and the refueling and overhaul of the land-based reactor for continued training and technology testing.

In today's multipolar and more aggressive geopolitical environment, it is imperative that NNSA is both responsive to needs and acts responsibly to avoid escalation or arms racing while preparing for an uncertain future. Our budget request reflects this balance, and our work has never been more critical to global stability.

NNSA's Accomplishments in 2021

Last year, NNSA achieved several key milestones across the nuclear security enterprise despite the unprecedented circumstances COVID-19 presented.

Life Extension and Weapons Modernization Programs: In 2021, NNSA completed first production units (FPU) for the W88 Alteration (Alt) 370 and the B61-12 Life Extension programs. Both refurbished weapons have increased safety and reliability.

Large Line-Item Construction:

NNSA has three large line-item construction projects for nuclear materials underway: two projects associated with plutonium pit production – one at Los Alamos National Laboratory and one at the Savannah River Site – and one project associated with uranium processing at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project (LAP4) received Critical Decision (CD)-1 approval in April 2021. The Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) received CD-1 approval in June 2021. CD-1 approval marks completion of a project's definition phase and the conceptual design as part of DOE's Order 413.3B process for the acquisition of capital assets. Clearing the CD-1 process allows NNSA to establish 90 percent design and associated cost estimation during the subsequent CD-2 effort.

The Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), consisting of seven subprojects, has completed three projects on schedule and under budget and the final four are underway. During 2021, significant construction activity continued and led to the successful full enclosure of all buildings in April 2022, setting the stage for equipment installation.

National Ignition Facility (NIF): In August, the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory achieved a breakthrough with an experiment that yielded more than 1.3 megajoules of energy and resulted in a burning plasma state for the first time in any

fusion research facility. Burning plasma research is needed for high fidelity modeling of nuclear weapons and is one of the milestones needed to achieve self-sustaining energy production.

Secure Transportation: The Office of Secure Transportation accomplished 100 percent of its assigned missions safely and securely with no mission degradation despite operational challenges present from COVID-19.

Infrastructure Innovation: NNSA purchased the LeMond Carbon Facility in Oak Ridge, TN to replace facilities at Y-12 built in the 1940s used for process development. Use of NNSA's purchase authority for acquisitions allows us to accelerate delivery of modern facilities without the need for new construction.

To support our climate goals, NNSA placed lease orders with the General Services Administration to replace gas-powered cars with approximately 50 zero-emissions vehicles, nearly doubling the size of electric-powered cars in NNSA's fleet.

Nuclear Material Disposal and Reduction: NNSA converted an additional 91 kilograms of plutonium to an oxide form, for a cumulative total of 1,187 kilograms, in preparation for final disposition, continued downblending excess plutonium, and completed construction of a characterization and storage pad for the first shipment of downblended plutonium from the Savannah River Site to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Additionally, the Secretaries of Energy and Health and Human Services jointly certified that global supplies of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) produced without the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) can meet the needs of patients in the U.S. This critical milestone in nonproliferation efforts also triggered a congressionally mandated ban on exports of HEU for foreign medical isotope production.

Global Material Security: NNSA conducted over 75 cyber engagements with international partners to enhance security of nuclear facilities and materials. Partnerships were also started with several domestic advanced reactor vendors for 'security-by-design' activities to enhance the security of the systems for both domestic and international use. NNSA replaced 50 devices (39 domestically and 11 internationally) that use high-activity radioactive sources with non-radioisotopic alternative technologies and secured 48 buildings (28 domestically and 20 internationally) with high priority radioactive sources. In addition, since the start of 2021, NNSA has signed new counter radioactive material smuggling arrangements with Estonia's Ministry of Interior, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ukraine's State Security Service, Mexico's National Commission for Nuclear Security and Safeguards, Niger's High Atomic Energy Authority, and Morocco's Gendarmerie.

Counterterrorism: NNSA's Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) conducted dozens of operations, including preventative radiological/nuclear detection support to the Presidential Inauguration, Presidential Address to a Joint Session of Congress, New Year's Eve celebrations in Las Vegas and New York City, Super Bowl LV, the Fourth of July celebration on the National Mall, and the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Additionally, NNSA conducted 50 virtual workshops with U.S. public information officers, law enforcement, first responders, and technical experts concerning radiological counterterrorism to build capacity and improve crisis and risk communication.

Workforce Development: NNSA achieved its highest federal workforce level since 2013 with a total of 1,825 federal employees onboard. To help develop the next-generation workforce, NNSA awarded 13 Minority Serving Institution Partnership Program grants for a total of 24 consortia grants to reach tens of thousands of students in STEM disciplines.

NNSA's FY 2023 Budget Request

The President's FY 2023 budget request for NNSA is \$21.4 billion, an increase of \$1.0 billion, or 5.1 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level. Funding levels do not reflect the mandated transfer of \$92.75 million in FY 2022 to the Office of Nuclear Energy for operation of the Advanced Test Reactor. This funding request reflects the expanded mission in NNSA and the need for accelerated delivery of the modernization and infrastructure programs. The three NNSA missions – the nuclear deterrent, nuclear security and nonproliferation, and naval nuclear propulsion – have key deliverables in FY 2023. In addition, the capabilities to position NNSA to be successful in the future must be nurtured. We are grateful for the sustained, bipartisan commitment by Congress and multiple administrations and ask for continued support.

Weapons Activities Appropriation

The FY 2023 budget request for the *Weapons Activities* account is \$16.5 billion, an increase of \$566 million, or 3.7 percent over the FY 2022 enacted levels. The request will be supplemented with prior year balances of \$396 million. This budget request represents the Administration's continued strong commitment to a safe, secure, reliable, and effective nuclear deterrent backed by resilient, flexible infrastructure along with cutting edge science, cyber security, and physical protection.

NNSA is fully aware that delivering the deterrent and capabilities our nation needs to respond to the current environment requires a faster pace and a more complete modernization of weapons than over the last several decades. That is why we are re-establishing production capabilities lost in the 1990s and overhauling both our physical infrastructure and human capital to retain technical advantages and build resilience into our enterprise. NNSA is looking forward to overcoming obstacles and building on the successes of the previous year.

The FY 2023 request reflects the need to advance the weapons modernization programs and production capacity at an accelerated pace. The Weapons Activities account includes:

- **Stockpile Management:** Maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons and production operations to sustain confidence in the safety, security, reliability, and military effectiveness of the stockpile without resuming nuclear explosive testing and associated activities.
- **Production and Infrastructure Modernization:** Investment in NNSA's infrastructure to rebuild capabilities lost in the 1990s and revitalize and expand the capacity of other elements to support stockpile modernization and science. These projects range from significant line-item construction for Plutonium and Uranium related activities to minor construction of offices and light labs to operational infrastructure such as electrical and networking utilities.

- **Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering:** Continued development of state-of-the-art scientific, engineering, and manufacturing capabilities to enable continuous improvement in design, certification, and production of the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile and to stay ahead of the threat.
- **Transportation, Nuclear, and Cyber Security:** Keeping pace with evolving threats and sustaining transportation, cyber and physical security across the nuclear security enterprise to improve resilience.

NNSA restructured the Weapons Activities budget in FY 2021 to enable better alignment of portfolios with resources. This allowed improved prioritization within portfolios that have multiple programs and interdependencies. Further refinements are proposed in FY 2023 to align programmatic construction with the portfolio each project supports. Comparisons throughout the Weapons Activities portfolio assume this alignment in the FY 2022 enacted levels as well.

Stockpile Management

The FY23 Stockpile Management budget request is \$4.9 billion, an increase of \$291 million, or 6.3 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level. This portfolio covers the maintenance of a safe, secure, reliable, and militarily effective nuclear weapons stockpile. Activities include life extension programs (LEP) and other weapons modernization activities; surveillance, minor alterations, and limited life component exchanges; providing the safe dismantlement of nuclear weapons and components; and providing sustainment of needed manufacturing capabilities and capacities. The FY 2023 request also includes funding for Nuclear Enterprise Assurance (NEA) to prevent, detect, and mitigate subversion risks to the nuclear weapons stockpile and associated design, production, and testing capabilities.

W88 Alteration (Alt) 370: NNSA expects the W88 Alt 370 program to enter Phase 6.6, *Full-Scale Production*, in July 2022. Production is currently on schedule to meet DoD deployment schedules.

B61-12 LEP: NNSA expects the B61-12 LEP to enter Phase 6.6, *Full-Scale Production*, in June 2022. The B61-12 LEP consolidates multiple variants of the B61 gravity bomb and improves the safety and security of the weapon. Production is currently on schedule to meet DoD deployment schedules.

W80-4 LEP: NNSA is continuing Phase 6.3 activities, *Development Engineering*, and plans to enter Phase 6.4, *Production Engineering*, in FY 2023. The W80-4 FPU date is currently being re-evaluated due to COVID-19 impacts, slower than planned hiring and increased attrition, and component technical challenges. The updated FPU schedule will be developed by mid-2022. NNSA's revised schedule is expected to support the U.S. Air Force's (USAF) schedule for Long Range Standoff missile initial operating capability.

W87-1 Modification Program: The W87-1 will replace the aging W78 warhead using a modification of the existing W87-0 design. The W87-1 will deploy new technologies that improve safety and security, address obsolete designs and materials, and simplify warhead manufacturability. The FY 2023 budget request supports NNSA's commitment for a planned

FPU in FY 2030 to meet DoD's scheduled deployment of the Sentinel missile. The request supports Phase 6.3, *Development Engineering*, activities including joint testing with USAF Sentinel missile and Mk21A reentry vehicle program and conducting the Conceptual Design Review. NNSA plans to enter Phase 6.3 in FY 2022.

W93/Mk7: In February 2022, the NWC voted to authorize the W93's entry into Phase 2, *Feasibility Study and Design Options*. NNSA's FY 2023 funding request will support the Phase 2 activities including further examination of design concepts from Phase 1, and down-selection to desired weapon design(s) to be subsequently developed in Phase 2A, *Design Definition and Cost Study*, planned for FY 2026. All the W93's key nuclear components will be based on currently deployed and previously tested nuclear designs, as well as extensive stockpile component and materials experience. It will not require additional nuclear explosive testing to certify. The W93 is vital for continuing our longstanding cooperation with the UK, which is modernizing its nuclear forces. The U.S.'s W93 program is a separate but parallel program critical to the UK's replacement warhead (RW) for its submarine launched ballistic missile. As an allied but independent nuclear power that contributes to NATO's nuclear deterrent posture, the UK's nuclear deterrent is critical to U.S. national security.

Within Stockpile Management, the FY 2023 budget request includes \$1.3 billion for *Stockpile Sustainment*, an increase of \$141 million, or 11.9 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level. This program is responsible for producing and replacing limited-life components such as neutron generators and gas transfer systems; conducting maintenance, surveillance, and evaluations to assess weapon reliability and detect any potential concerns; and analyzing information compiled during the annual assessment process.

The request for Stockpile Management also includes \$631 million for *Production Operations*, an increase of \$62 million, or 10.9 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. Included in this request is funding to support continued growth of base capabilities, both in staffing and equipment, required to support increased LEP workload as certain programs reach full-scale production rates.

Production Modernization

The FY 2023 Production Modernization budget request is \$4.64 billion, an increase of \$484 million, or 11.6 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding focuses on production capabilities for nuclear weapons components including primaries, canned subassemblies, radiation cases and non-nuclear components needed to sustain the nuclear weapons stockpile near-to long-term.

Primary Capability Modernization: NNSA's most intensive recapitalization effort is reconstitution of plutonium pit production fabrication capabilities. NNSA is required to produce no fewer than 80 pits per year (ppy) during 2030. NNSA has outlined a two-site approach for producing 80 ppy utilizing Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to produce 30 ppy and the Savannah River Site (SRS) to produce 50 ppy. The two-site approach will provide the required capacity while enhancing resiliency and flexibility. At this time, the production of 30 ppy at LANL during 2026 remains on schedule with some technical challenges remaining. However,

the production of 50 ppy at SRS during 2030 is not achievable. The Secretary of Energy and the Nuclear Weapons Council have both notified Congress regarding the inability to produce 80 ppy in 2030. However, NNSA remains committed to achieving 80 ppy as close to 2030 as possible. The FY 2023 budget request funds pit production and associated efforts with a 26 percent increase compared to FY 2022. NNSA continues to work with DoD to develop a plan to maintain the required stockpile until pit production capabilities are fully established.

The FY 2023 request for LANL Plutonium Modernization will support equipment installation, continue decontamination and demolition work, and mature project design for the LAP4. This includes adding equipment in Plutonium Facility 4 (PF-4) to support 30 ppy in 2026, construction of a training facility to support workforce development, and construction of a higher capacity entrance control facility.

The FY 2023 funds for SRPPF will be used to continue the CD-2 work to establish a 90 percent design. CD-2 is forecast for completion in early FY 2024. Additionally, the request supports early site preparation including removal of unnecessary walls and building systems originally installed for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility.

Secondary Capability Modernization: NNSA is also modernizing its uranium, lithium, and tritium processing efforts necessary to fabricate nuclear weapon secondaries. NNSA's uranium strategy aims to relocate enriched uranium processing capabilities into the UPF and other enduring facilities to reduce mission dependency on Building 9212, which is over 75 years old. This will be accomplished by completing construction of UPF to provide new floor space for high hazard operations; extending the operational lifetime of buildings 9215, 9204-2E, and 9995 into the 2040s; introducing new processes to increase safety and efficiency in the new facilities; and supplying the current stockpile with purified enriched uranium metal.

UPF will provide for the long-term viability, safety, and security of enriched uranium processing capability in the United States while significantly improving worker and public safety. The construction is well underway with a peak production workforce of 3,000 people in FYs 2022 and 2023. Ongoing supply chain issues and delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are projected to result in a delay of about 8 months beyond the scheduled completion date of December 2025. A comprehensive annual cost update is being conducted for the UPF project completion to better understand factors that could potentially affect total costs. Overall, UPF is 70 percent complete with the first three non-nuclear infrastructure subprojects completed under budget and on schedule.

Additionally, in FY 2021, NNSA initiated the Depleted Uranium (DU) Modernization Program to meet growing mission requirements. This effort will reconstitute lapsed DU alloying and component manufacturing capabilities at Y-12; invest in key new technologies to improve efficiency and reduce lifecycle costs; and increase the reliability and capacity. The DU Modernization Program request for FY 2023 is \$170 million.

The U.S. no longer maintains a full lithium purification capability and relies on direct recycling as the main source of lithium for nuclear weapons systems. NNSA's Lithium Strategy will increase the supply of lithium by recycling components from dismantled systems, sustain and

recapitalize existing infrastructure through a transition period, and design and construct a Lithium Processing Facility (LPF) to house processing capabilities by 2031. LPF will replace capabilities performed in Y-12's buildings 9204-2 and 9202 and will include recovery, purification, and component fabrication operations. While current capabilities can provide a sufficient lithium supply through 2035, operations take place in an aging facility with significant infrastructure challenges. LPF will alleviate those issues and reduce risk while providing capacity to meet material demands beyond 2035.

The FY 2023 budget request for the Tritium and Domestic Uranium Enrichment is \$580 million, an increase of \$64 million, or 12.4 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level. For Domestic Uranium Enrichment the FY 2023 budget request supports HEU down-blending to extend the need date for low-enriched uranium (LEU) for tritium production to 2044, enrichment technology development, and acquisition activities to meet future enriched uranium needs. HEU downblending began in FY 2019 and will continue through FY 2025. NNSA is currently conducting an analysis of alternatives, which is expected to conclude in the mid-2020s that will inform a final down-select of an enrichment options. Other NNSA programs such as reactor fuel and naval propulsion fuel are also supported by this effort.

The Tritium Modernization Program's mission is to establish and operate a domestic source of tritium to meet national security requirements, which includes recycling tritium gas to maintain required inventories and sustaining reliable supply chain infrastructure and equipment. Since 2003, NNSA's tritium production has met all production, delivery, and schedule requirements. Because NNSA is currently ramping up production levels at the Tennessee Valley Authority to meet future delivery requirements, the requested budget has been increased. NNSA is also in the early phases of constructing the Tritium Finishing Facility (TFF), which will replace a 1950s-era facility. TFF will house the finishing, packing, and shipping of gas reservoirs to meet mission requirements. This major infrastructure modernization initiative will fulfill a critical mission need and enable the program to meet contemporary safety standards. The facility will house functions to receive, inspect, finish, package, and ship reservoirs. Construction of the site preparation subproject is scheduled to start in FY 2024.

Non-Nuclear Component Modernization: Non-nuclear components (NNCs) include a wide array of parts that weaponize the nuclear explosive package. Examples are gas transfer systems, neutron generators, microelectronics, and power sources. NNCs make up more than half the cost of weapon modernization due to the number, complexity, and their qualification in extreme environments over the warhead lifecycle. Therefore, delivering NNCs requires an extensive foundation of capabilities for the design, development, qualification, production, and surveillance of these components. The FY 2023 request includes funding to provide equipment for increased manufacturing capacity at the Kansas City National Security Campus; reconstitute thermal spray capability for weapon modernization; recapitalize radiation and major environmental test facilities at Sandia National Laboratories used to design and qualify NNCs; and tools and equipment at the Microsystems Engineering, Science and Applications (MESA) Complex at Sandia, which serves as the only approved source of trusted, strategically radiation hardened microelectronics.

Infrastructure and Operations

NNSA has been taking significant steps to modernize and recapitalize its infrastructure to meet expanding demands, reduce mission and safety risk, and draw down its deferred maintenance backlog. A well-organized, well-maintained, and modern infrastructure system is the bedrock of a flexible and resilient nuclear enterprise. Almost 60 percent of NNSA facilities were beyond their 40-year life expectancy at the end of FY 2021 with some dating back to the Manhattan Project. Our modernization and recapitalization efforts will provide for the safety of our workforce, the communities around our facilities, and our environment. NNSA can address this challenge only with sustained, predictable, and timely funding.

The FY 2023 budget request for Infrastructure and Operations is \$2.63 billion, an increase of \$144 million or 5.8 percent over the FY 2022 enacted amount. This increase will enable NNSA to build on the Infrastructure Modernization Initiative, including adopting new practices that will streamline construction practices to save time and money on low-risk, non-nuclear, construction projects.

Deferred maintenance has been a key focus of both NNSA and Congress. At the end of FY 2021, NNSA had \$6.1 billion of deferred maintenance and an enterprise-wide replacement plant value of \$121.5 billion. While this ratio may seem high, construction of new facilities and associated demolition of legacy facilities will have a substantial role in reducing NNSA infrastructure challenges. Approximately 90 percent of NNSA deferred maintenance is associated with facilities that are approaching or have surpassed their intended design life. NNSA is integrating its infrastructure modernization work with the Department's Office of Environmental Management supported effort to demolish high-risk excess facilities at the Y-12 National Security Complex, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Los Alamos National Lab. NNSA is using this intentional approach to prioritize investments based on mission risk while underscoring the need for sustained commitment to move beyond legacy infrastructure. The FY 2023 budget request includes increases in *Mission Enabling Construction* accounts so that NNSA can address mission needs, achieve operational efficiencies, and reduce risks to safety, security, the environment, and program.

For years, NNSA has used a prioritization methodology for recapitalization investments that factors in sustainability and resilience along with safety and mission risk. In FY 2023, NNSA is increasing its emphasis on climate resiliency projects through the Energy Resilient Infrastructure and Climate Adaptation (ERICA) initiative. ERICA is part of NNSA's multifaceted approach to address climate adaptation and resilience using direct- and indirect-funded infrastructure programs and alternative financing. For example, the planned Building 848 Net Zero Energy Upgrade project at Sandia will move the facility to being 100 percent powered by on-site generated electricity while also improving its operations, indoor air quality, and thermal comfort.

NNSA uses data-driven, risk informed tools and initiatives to improve decision making, accelerate the delivery, and reduce the cost of commercial-like construction projects. For example, in FY 2019 NNSA established the Enhanced Minor Construction & Commercial Standards (EMC²) pilot, which is challenging the paradigm for how NNSA executes low-risk, non-complex construction projects to accelerate delivery and reduce costs. There are 10 projects

in the pilot, including the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is the first pilot project to be completed earlier this year. Using the EMC² approach, the Livermore EOC was completed 13 months after receiving full construction funding in January 2021. In the first four pilot projects currently underway, estimated cost savings range from approximately 12 to 31 percent. An additional six EMC² projects are projected to result in estimated cost savings of 17 to 38 percent.

Stockpile Research, Technology and Engineering

For Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering, the FY 2023 budget request is \$2.89 billion, a decrease of \$83 million, or 2.8 percent below the FY 2022 enacted level. The decrease results from the use of carryover balances to continue construction of the U1a Complex Enhancement Project at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). After adjusting for this reduction, the Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering request is stable from FY 2022 enacted.

This portfolio provides the scientific foundation for science-based stockpile activities, including the capabilities, tools, and components needed to assess the active stockpile and to certify warhead modernization programs without the need for underground nuclear testing. NNSA's unparalleled science and technical capabilities, and commitment to their constant improvement, helps cultivate the knowledge and expertise to maintain confidence in the stockpile. The major activities in the Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering portfolio are:

Enhanced Capabilities for Subcritical Experiments (ECSE): ECSE will produce experimental data in underground tunnels at the NNSS that will enable high fidelity assessment of the current stockpile and certification of the future stockpile without the need to return to underground nuclear-explosive testing. ECSE experiments are designed to remain subcritical throughout the experiment to adhere to the U.S. policy of "zero yield."

Stockpile Responsiveness Program (SRP): SRP is responsible for exercising and enhancing capabilities across the entire nuclear weapons development and production process to improve the responsiveness of the United States to future threats, technology trends, and international developments not addressed by existing life extension programs. For example, SRP is investing in efforts to address issues in design for manufacturability, digital engineering, component, and system prototyping and testing.

Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) Program: The ICF Program supports the assessment and certification of the nuclear weapon stockpile by providing the facilities, scientific expertise, and experimental capability necessary to acquire data at the extreme conditions of nuclear weapon operation. The ICF program also supports research on thermonuclear fusion with the goal of reaching fusion ignition and eventually high fusion yield in the laboratory. The FY 2023 request supports ICF research and facilities, enabling access to experimental data that underpin the safety, security, and effectiveness of the nuclear stockpile and continued progress toward the capabilities necessary to meet long-term stewardship needs.

NNSA Exascale Computing Initiative: The Exascale Computing Initiative (ECI) will provide NNSA with next-generation simulation capabilities to support weapons design, science-based stockpile stewardship, and stockpile certification activities. The FY 2023 budget request will continue funding maturation of next-generation simulation and computing technologies and enables NNSA to meet its exascale system initial operation capability in FY 2023, including transition of the next-generation, validated weapons codes to next-generation classified computing.

Academic Programs: The challenges of sustaining the nuclear deterrent long-term demand a strong and diverse base of national expertise and educational opportunities in specialized technical areas that uniquely contribute to stockpile stewardship. NNSA's Academic Programs are designed to cultivate, attract, and retain such a workforce. Funding in this area supports the Administration's Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the federal government, Academic Alliances and existing partnerships with Minority Serving Institutions, and an increase in student engagement and internship opportunities.

Secure Transportation Asset

Secure Transportation Asset (STA) supports the safe, secure transport of the Nation's nuclear weapons, weapon components, and special nuclear material throughout the nuclear security enterprise to meet nuclear security requirements. Nuclear weapon life extension programs, limited-life component exchanges, surveillance, dismantlement, nonproliferation activities, and experimental programs rely on STA to ensure safe, secure, and on-schedule transport. The FY 2023 budget request for STA is \$344 million, an increase of \$13.7 million, or 4.1 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted amount to increase the Federal Agent workforce to a level necessary to keep pace with the growing program deliverables.

The Office of Secure Transportation's (OST) priorities for FY 2023 include modernization and sustainment of transportation assets. This includes the Safeguards Transporter (SGT) life extension program to secure its service until replacement by the Mobile Guardian Transporter (MGT), as well as the entry into service of procured 737-700 aircraft. The first MGT Production Unit is planned for completion in FY 2026 and initial rate production is set to commence in FY 2027. Currently, aircraft are undergoing heavy maintenance checks, painting to NNSA standards, and a major modification from a passenger jet to a FlexCombi that is configurable to carry various loads of personnel and cargo.

OST also remains focused on recruiting, stabilizing, training, and retaining the Federal Agent and staff workforce necessary to support mission requirements. OST has committed to a stable human resources strategy to achieve an optimal agent force. OST has increased staffing numbers by optimizing position qualifications and managing risk associated with the Human Reliability Program. Although COVID-19 impacted key milestones and deliverables, OST successfully accomplished every assigned mission for the previous year.

Defense Nuclear Security

Defense Nuclear Security's FY 2023 budget request is \$882.3 million, an increase of \$38.2 million, or 4.5 percent over the FY 2022 enacted level. The Office of Defense Nuclear Security's (DNS) primary mission is protecting the facilities, people, and assets critical to achieving NNSA's important national security missions. The need for increasing security due to growth across enterprise from projects such as LAP4 and UPF, along with additional resources required to sustain core security, has resulted in increased program requirements for DNS. Support for the request is vital for the protection of the enterprise, its people, and its sensitive material and information. DNS remains focused on improving physical security infrastructure with several new projects and the development and deployment of new systems. Progress is also being made in countering unmanned aircraft systems. The first such platform was deployed at LANL in December 2017. Deployment at other facilities is expected to be completed in late FY 2022.

Cybersecurity and Emerging Issues

The FY 2023 budget request for information technology and cybersecurity is \$445.7 million, \$39.1 million, or 9.6 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted amount. This request funds ongoing operations and invests in improvements across NNSA to modernize both classified and unclassified systems, improves information management and data governance, implements critical aspects of a zero-trust architecture in our networks and systems, and allows for the execution of a robust cybersecurity program. As an example, NNSA recently recapitalized its deployed cyber sensor platform, significantly improving the ability to detect and respond to malicious activity.

Maintaining a strong cybersecurity program is a critical defense mechanism and a powerful deterrence tool. To strengthen oversight of the cyber program, the budget request includes a recategorization of certain Cybersecurity program investments into the Information Technology program. As a result, the request more clearly reflects investments in cybersecurity tools and services provided to the enterprise, maintains core cyber operations at the labs, plants, and sites, and improves management and transparency of these funds.

NNSA also recently completed an enterprise-wide cybersecurity assessment, in conjunction with the Institute for Defense Analyses, aimed at evaluating the overall cybersecurity posture and developing a set of recommendations to improve the program. That review calls for increased investment in information technology and cyber infrastructure to better meet current and emerging challenges, as well as outlines strategies related to workforce development issues. NNSA has already started acting on the findings and will continue to do so with the FY 2023 requested budget.

Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Appropriation

The FY 2023 budget request for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account is \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$274 million, or 13.2 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level. When the use of prior year balances is considered, the proposed funding level for the account increases by \$397 million, or 19.2 percent. The use of prior year balances will allow DNN programs to supplement new budget authority across its programs.

This account funds all activities in the offices of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, Emergency Operations, and Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation. Within these offices, this appropriation funds six nonproliferation programs, a counterterrorism and counterproliferation program, and an incident response program as part of a whole-of-government approach. Together these efforts provide policy and technical leadership to prevent or limit the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the related materials, technology, and expertise as well as to detect and respond to nuclear terrorism or proliferation events.

Nonproliferation Efforts

For decades, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) has developed and implemented policy and technical solutions to eliminate proliferation sensitive material and limit or prevent the spread of materials, technology, and expertise necessary for nuclear and radiological weapons. By working with governments, international organizations, and private sector partners around the world these efforts reduce the reliance on radioactive material in commercial and research industries; better secure nuclear and radioactive material; develop capabilities to interdict material outside of regulatory control; and maintain a robust response capability for nuclear and radiological incidents at home and abroad.

The FY 2023 budget request will allow the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation to better confront current and anticipated proliferation challenges including the growing nuclear programs and strategic competition with Russia and China, the impacts of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, risks related to the North Korean and Iranian nuclear programs, and disruptive technologies that lower the barrier to proliferation. Through these efforts DNN aims to restore American leadership in nonproliferation solutions and cutting-edge technology required to address future threats.

The *Material Management and Minimization (M3)* program FY 2023 budget request is \$451 million, an increase of \$108 million, or 31.5 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted level. M3 programs reduce and, when possible, eliminate weapons-usable nuclear material around the world. The FY 2023 budget request supports the conversion or shutdown of research reactors and isotope production facilities that use HEU, the use of non-HEU-based Mo-99 production, the removal and disposal of weapons-usable nuclear material, and the removal of plutonium from the state of South Carolina. Additionally, to date, nearly 7,270 kilograms of weapons-usable nuclear material from 48 countries and Taiwan have been removed or confirmed disposed, while 108 civilian research reactors and isotope production facilities have stopped using weapons-grade material in their work.

The *Global Material Security* program FY 2023 budget request is \$504 million, a decrease of \$27.4 million, or 5.1 percent, below the FY 2022 enacted level. The FY 2023 request supports program efforts to prevent terrorists and other actors from obtaining nuclear and radioactive material for use in an improvised nuclear device by working with domestic and global partners. This includes improving the security of vulnerable materials and sites, promoting the adoption of alternative technologies that do not rely on radioactive sources, and increasing capacity to detect, disrupt and interdict illicit trafficking operations. Working through the RadSecure 100 Initiative,

NNSA will accelerate and expand permanent risk reduction, security enhancements, and response integration with local law enforcement in the top 100 major metropolitan areas of the United States. To date, NNSA has replaced approximately 130 cesium-137 based blood irradiators with alternative technologies. The program remains on track to replace nearly all the estimated 400 such devices in the United States by 2027 as mandated in the FY 2019 NDAA. In addition, NNSA is partnering with domestic advanced nuclear reactor vendors in ‘security-by-design’ activities to enhance the security of their systems for domestic and international use. Finally, NNSA continues to build additional partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners focused on counter nuclear smuggling. To date, NNSA partners with 84 countries in this area and continues to expand cooperation with existing and new partners to expand global counter nuclear smuggling capabilities.

The *Nonproliferation and Arms Control (NPAC)* program FY 2023 budget request is \$208 million, an increase of \$23 million, or 12.4 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. The increased funding request supports two increasingly important activities: (1) policy and technology development activities for peaceful uses of nuclear energy along with support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and (2) policy and technology development for potential arms control agreements that extend to new types of strategic weapons as well as tactical nuclear weapons.

By focusing on ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy, NPAC programs strengthen nonproliferation regimes through the development and implementation of effective technologies and policies. This is especially important as nuclear energy programs expand internationally in response to clean energy implementation to address climate change. New nuclear safeguards and monitoring and verification technologies are needed to secure materials and to detect proliferation activities early. NPAC works to mature technologies and transfer them to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and partner countries to implement. The US also supplies IAEA with U.S. subject matter experts, training, and equipment advice and procurement aid. In FY 2022 and FY 2023 NPAC is helping establish the nonproliferation enrichment testing and training platform. This platform will be turned over to the IAEA for commissioning and operation in FY 2024. On the policy side, NPAC supports the development and implementation of Section 123 agreements and the careful regulation of nuclear technology exports utilizing Part 810 Authorizations.

Approximately \$30 million funds increasing nuclear weapons verification activities. This will improve U.S. technical policy and readiness for future arms control agreements and associated verification technology. New investment in the Arms Control Advancement Initiative will strengthen NNSA’s capacity to address future nuclear warhead monitoring and verification requirements through advanced technology development, robust modeling and measurements, and sustained expert engagement to maintain a pipeline of experts to help advance arms control objectives over time.

The *Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development (DNN R&D)* program FY 2023 budget request is \$720 million, a decrease of \$9 million, or 1.2 percent, below the FY 2022

enacted level. DNN R&D is the key component for the innovation of United States' technical capabilities to detect nuclear detonations; foreign nuclear weapons programs' activities; and the presence, movement, or diversion of special nuclear materials. The program also sustains and develops foundational nonproliferation technical competencies that ensure the technical agility needed to support a broad spectrum of U.S. nonproliferation missions and anticipate threats. Consistent with the growing nonproliferation challenges, this funding request for DNN R&D programs will expand activities that advance the development of next-generation nuclear arms control monitoring and verification technology and expertise symbiotic with the NPAC efforts.

The *Nonproliferation Construction* program FY 2023 budget request is \$72 million, a decrease of \$84 million, or 54 percent, below the FY 2022 enacted level. This decrease is due to the awarding of the long-lead procurement contracts for gloveboxes, emergency generators and HEPA filters under CD-3A Phase 2 in FY 2022 and the expected FY 2023 completion of design work for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) project required for CD-2/3, *Approval of Performance Baseline and Start of Construction*. The FY 2023 budget request supports the implementation of the dilute and dispose strategy, by continuing design for the SPD project. The SPD project will add additional glovebox capacity at the SRS to accelerate plutonium dilution and aid in the removal of plutonium from South Carolina.

NNSA is requesting the establishment of a *Bioassurance Program* in FY 2023. The budget request is \$20 million. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, the United States needs better capabilities to anticipate, respond to, and mitigate threats to the bioeconomy. NNSA proposes to establish a national security bioassurance program to perform activities to anticipate and detect threats and scale response solutions to support the security of the future bioeconomy and monitor and thwart malpractice in this area. This funding supports foundational work at DOE/NNSA laboratories including the anticipation of destabilizing threats through modeling, identifying threat signatures and developing detection technologies, and rapidly developing and validating safeguards and threat mitigation approaches. NNSA will integrate its high-security work with the Department's Office of Science supported "open" science work and other government agencies, providing the full spectrum of capabilities essential for a bioassurance program informed by national security expertise drawn from parallel and analogous work on nuclear threats, risks, export controls and licensing, nonproliferation, detection, and verification.

Nuclear Counterterrorism and Incident Response

The FY 2023 request for the *Nuclear Counterterrorism and Incident Response (NCTIR)* program is \$439 million, an increase of \$68 million, or 18.4 percent, over the FY 2022 enacted amount. The NCTIR program supports two subprograms: *Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation (CTCP)* and *Emergency Operations (EO)*.

CTCP is responsible for countering nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation, responding to nuclear incidents and accidents worldwide, advancing nuclear forensic capabilities, and building domestic and international partner capacity concerning emergency preparedness and response. CTCP's unique scientific and operational capabilities make it an integral part of the U.S. Government's layered defense against nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation.

CTCP manages the NEST, NNSA's multi-mission emergency response capability comprised of on-call technical specialists who are trained and equipped to respond to nuclear incidents and accidents worldwide. NEST's missions include both national security and public health and safety disciplines.

NNSA, in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), supports regional counter-WMD teams in 14 major U.S. cities as part of the "Capability Forward" initiative. CTCP provides technology, equipment, and training in support of these teams to enhance regional capabilities to defeat nuclear and radiological devices, accelerating life-saving responses to a WMD event.

The FY 2023 budget request addresses critical shortfalls in CTCP's capabilities to execute DOE's Primary Mission Essential Function (PMEF)-2, *Respond to Nuclear Incidents*. In coordination with interagency efforts to identify and address WMD response gaps, increased funding addresses staffing needs, ensures operational integration and full-spectrum training and exercises in accordance with interagency objectives, and supports technology development and infrastructure requirements.

Additional programmatic funding will also invest in new incident response expertise and technology; continue NEST equipment recapitalization efforts with planned procurement for replacement of diagnostic equipment and detection systems required for the public health and safety, counter-WMD, and nuclear weapon accident response mission areas; and bolster CTCP efforts to counter nuclear proliferation through applied analysis, concept development, predictive modeling, and testing.

CTCP also contributes to the interagency National Technical Nuclear Forensics mission, a central pillar of the U.S. strategy to deter hostile states from providing nuclear material to terrorists. CTCP's FY 2023 budget request includes \$43 million for this effort, including training and exercises for responders; procurement, maintenance, logistics, and technical integration of equipment; readiness to deploy pre- and post-detonation response and device assessment teams; and laboratory analysis of nuclear or radiological material.

EO provides both the structure and processes to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to all-hazards emergency management, thus improving readiness and effectiveness of the DOE Emergency Management System on a programmatic and performance level regardless of the nature of the emergency impacting the DOE/NNSA enterprise or its equities anywhere in the world. The FY 2023 budget request supports Continuity of Operations, Continuity of Government, and Enduring Constitutional Government programs to advance the National Continuity Policy and ensure the continued performance and delivery of essential services under any circumstances. The FY 2023 budget request also provides for 24/7/365 Consolidated Emergency Operations Center communications and coordination support to the DOE/NNSA Emergency Management Enterprise and Departmental Senior Leadership. The request also includes funding for investments in communications equipment and classified communications system improvements to support emergency operations and continuity infrastructure improvements.

Naval Reactors Appropriation

Advancing Naval Nuclear Propulsion

With over 40 percent of the Navy's major combatants being nuclear-powered, this technology remains critical to our national security posture. It provides the nation's submarines and aircraft carriers with unmatched mobility, flexibility, responsiveness, and endurance. The ability to maintain robust fleet capabilities on long-term missions is essential for the security of global trade and the security of our allies. The Office of Naval Reactors is the foundation of this national achievement in global security. Cutting edge advancements across all aspects of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, from reactor plant development and design to the disposition of spent fuel, gives the U.S. Navy a decisive edge in naval warfare and enhances the security and reliability of the sea-leg of our nuclear triad.

The FY 2023 budget request for *Naval Reactors* is \$2.08 billion, an increase of \$163 million, or 8.5 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. The funding does not reflect the mandated transfer of \$92.75 million in FY 2022 to the Office of Nuclear Energy for operation of the Advanced Test Reactor. The budget request supports the continued safe and reliable operation of the nuclear-powered fleet, and it supports investment in technology development to deliver improvements in propulsion plant performance, manufacturability, and affordability – for current and future warships. Funding also supports requirements for the office's three major projects: COLUMBIA-class ballistic missile submarine reactor systems development; construction of the Naval Spent Fuel Handling Facility in Idaho; and the refueling and overhaul of the S8G Prototype land-based reactor in New York for continued sailor training and technology testing.

Consistent, sustained funding is vital for the support of these projects and will allow Naval Reactors to meet current and future force needs. Close coordination with the Navy led to the start of construction of the COLUMBIA-class lead ship in FY 2021. The S8G Refueling Overhaul is expected to reach completion in FY 2023. The Spent Fuel Handling Recapitalization project at the Naval Reactors Facility in Idaho is making significant progress with an estimated completion in FY 2026.

AUKUS

On September 15, 2021, Australia, the UK, and the U.S. announced the creation of an enhanced trilateral security partnership (AUKUS), focused on peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. The three governments are currently six months into an 18-month consultation period to establish the most efficient path forward for the delivery of a nuclear-powered, conventional, submarine capability to Australia as expeditiously as possible. As part of the international working group developing nonproliferation and safeguards aspects of the AUKUS program, NNSA will provide technical advice to the interagency and our AUKUS partners on the full suite of requirements that underpin nuclear stewardship to implement strong safeguards measures and achieve the AUKUS objectives.

This cooperation is fully consistent with our obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT does not prohibit naval nuclear propulsion. In our role in this trilateral

partnership, we intend to implement the strongest possible nonproliferation standards to maintain the strength and integrity of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. Australia is not seeking, and the U.S. and UK are not and will not assist in any acquisition of nuclear weapons. Additionally, Australia has committed not to enrich uranium or reprocess spent fuel in the context of AUKUS.

Federal Salaries and Expenses Appropriation

The FY 2023 budget request for *Federal Salaries and Expenses* (FSE) is \$496 million, an increase of \$32 million, or 7 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. The increase in this account will support an additional 132 Federal Full-time Equivalents (FTE) above the FY 2022 enacted level, bringing the total to 1,958. FSE increases will also support increased space and occupancy needs, travel costs, support service contractors, training, and other related expenses.

The NNSA Federal workforce is critical to the success of the Nation's nuclear security enterprise. NNSA's expanding mission requirements and pressing modernization and recapitalization needs require recruiting, training, and retaining a skilled Federal workforce with the appropriate capabilities to meet mission requirements and deliver on our objectives. This workforce represents some of the top minds on nuclear issues, consisting of a diverse team of scientists, engineers, project and program managers, foreign affairs specialists, and support staff that perform program and project management and conduct appropriate oversight of national security missions. NNSA's Federal workforce is distributed across the enterprise and can be found in eight states and Washington, DC.

NNSA currently faces two significant hurdles in achieving full staffing: retirement and private sector competition. As of FY 2021 17.3 percent of NNSA FTE Federal staff are eligible to retire, a number that is expected to rise to 35.4 percent by FY 2027. Additionally, in FY 2021 the annual FSE attrition rate was 10.7 percent, higher than the average attrition rate of 8.9 percent over the past 13 years. NNSA also faces competition from the private sector for top talent in technical fields.

Combating these trends requires an aggressive, external hiring strategy. NNSA has utilized a renewed focus on virtual recruitment events that support hiring across the nuclear security enterprise in support of all program areas. In October 2021, NNSA initiated a pilot program for expedited hiring within 15 business days, from the time the program office selected a candidate to the time Human Resources provided an entry on duty date. NNSA is applying lessons learned from this pilot program to continue progress on a streamlined hiring effort. Finally, NNSA has expanded the effort to enlarge fellowship program candidate pools and employ available alternative hiring authorities to compress the hiring timeline for qualified candidates and increase the overall hiring rate.

NNSA's recruitment and hiring efforts will support mission and growth requirements and will continue to support the Administration's goals of promoting racial and economic equity as a way to foster scientific breakthroughs, research and development excellence, and enhanced national security.

Conclusion

NNSA's enduring responsibility is providing the United States with a nuclear weapons stockpile and naval nuclear propulsion systems that are the best in the world while simultaneously promoting nonproliferation and counterterrorism efforts to reduce overall nuclear risk. The President's FY 2023 budget, informed by the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review, supports our efforts to keep the nuclear deterrent and naval nuclear propulsion systems safe, secure, reliable, and militarily effective. Recognizing the increasingly volatile geopolitical environment, NNSA must also stay resolute in sustaining and evolving our nuclear security, non-proliferation, and counterterrorism efforts to help offset and stay ahead of nuclear risks.

NNSA has a unique responsibility to provide an effective nuclear deterrent in a timely manner to protect our Nation and our allies. The FY 2023 budget request funds the five life extension and modernization programs that support all three legs of the triad. In FY 2023 the requested budget also supports significant investments in new production facilities for uranium processing and plutonium pit manufacturing at the fastest responsible pace. The budget request contains close to equal funding for stockpile management and production modernization, a true indication of the intent to accelerate activities by working on weapon design and production in parallel with infrastructure revitalization. The science and engineering support for the weapons program stays strong to allow for the continued development of capabilities to design and certify the stockpile without testing and to stay ahead of threats.

The Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation budget request sustains our efforts to reduce nuclear risk by eliminating, minimizing, and securing nuclear and radiological materials. In addition, the DNN portfolio request recognizes the changing world by increasing support for policy and technology development aimed at the increased proliferation risks associated with the increase in nuclear energy around the world, preparing for an increasingly complex arms control and global stability environment, and by initiating a bioassurance program. Similarly, the increased budget request for the counterterrorism and counterproliferation program is responsive to the changing threat environment.

The Naval Reactors budget request recognizes the excellent stewardship provided over the years and continues to support the high priority needs to replace aging tools, build a new spent fuel handling facility, and support the COLUMBIA-class production schedule.

The challenges NNSA faces ahead are steep and we are mindful of the resources entrusted to it. For FY 2023, NNSA scrubbed prior year balances and used available funds to offset some of the increased budget needs. NNSA, in partnership with Congress and our colleagues in the Departments of Energy and Defense, is steadfast in our commitment to fulfill vital national security mission and deliver our goals. We greatly appreciate your support.