



Category I/II Special Nuclear Material Consolidation



What is Category I/II Special Nuclear Material?

As defined in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, special nuclear materials (SNM) are: (1) plutonium, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and any other material which the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines to be SNM; or (2) any material artificially enriched by plutonium or uranium-233 or -235. Category I/II quantities of SNM are determined by grouping materials by type, attractiveness, and quantity. Category I/II require the highest security. Lesser amounts of material are graded as Category III or IV and have reduced security requirements.

Why is Category I/II SNM Consolidation needed?

Security Category I/II quantities of SNM have recently been stored at seven NNSA nuclear weapons complex sites. NNSA seeks to reduce security costs and increase safety through SNM consolidation.

Where does NNSA currently conduct Category I/II SNM storage?

Security Category I/II quantities of SNM are stored at the Pantex Plant (Amarillo, Texas), the Y-12 National Security Complex (Oak Ridge, Tennessee), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Livermore, California), Los Alamos National Laboratory (Los Alamos, New Mexico), and Nevada Test Site (near Las Vegas, Nevada). Removal of Category I/II quantities from SNM Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque, New Mexico) is expected to be completed in 2008. The Savannah River Site does not store SNM associated with weapons activities, but does store and process Category I/II quantities of SNM associated with other Department of Energy activities.

What are the alternatives NNSA is evaluating for Category I/II SNM?

The alternatives for consolidating SNM involve reducing the number of sites with Category I/II SNM and consolidating SNM to as few locations within a given site as soon as practical. Specifically, NNSA intends to phase out operations involving Category I/II SNM at LLNL by 2012. NNSA also proposes to consolidate Category I/II SNM at Pantex to a more centralized location at Pantex. NNSA's preferred alternative is to phase out operations involving Category I/II SNM at LLNL by 2012 and to consolidate Category I/II SNM at Pantex within Zone 12, and close Zone 4.

For further information contact:

Mr. Theodore Wyka
Complex Transformation SPEIS Document Manager
Office of Transformation, NA-10.1
U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Phone: (800) 832-0885 (ext. 63519)
E-mail: complextransformation@nnsa.doe.gov
Website: <http://www.ComplexTransformationSPEIS.com>

February 2008