



Nevada Test Site (NTS)

High-Hazard Testing and Experimentation

Complex Transformation – Preferred Alternative: NNSA is moving forward with a vision to achieve a smaller, safer, more secure, and less expensive enterprise that leverages the scientific and technical capabilities of our workforce, and meets national security requirements. The current Complex Transformation Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (SPEIS) effort is a major step in this process, and updates a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that is now more than a decade old. Our transformation strategy embraces the notion of modern “centers of excellence” by focusing on core competencies, eliminating redundancies, and maximizing the consolidation of special nuclear materials (SNM).

Nevada Test Site (65 miles Northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada)

NTS continues to maintain the capability to resume underground nuclear testing while conducting hydrotests and high-hazard experiments involving both nuclear material and high explosives. NTS also conducts non-nuclear experiments; performs research and development activities; safeguards Category I/II quantities of SNM (special nuclear materials that require the highest level of security); provides training on nuclear safeguards, criticality safety, and emergency response; and affords the Nation the capability to disposition a damaged nuclear weapon or improvised nuclear device.

Mission Highlights

NTS would be the Center of Excellence for High-hazard Testing and Experimentation, and its mission would be enhanced by:

- Large-scale, high-explosive testing (>10 kg) using the Big Explosives Experimental Facility (BEEF);
- Large-scale, hydrodynamic testing;
- Subcritical and plutonium experiments at U1A and Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER);
- Criticality experiments and special nuclear material at the Device Assembly Facility; and
- Maintain capability to resume testing if directed by the President.

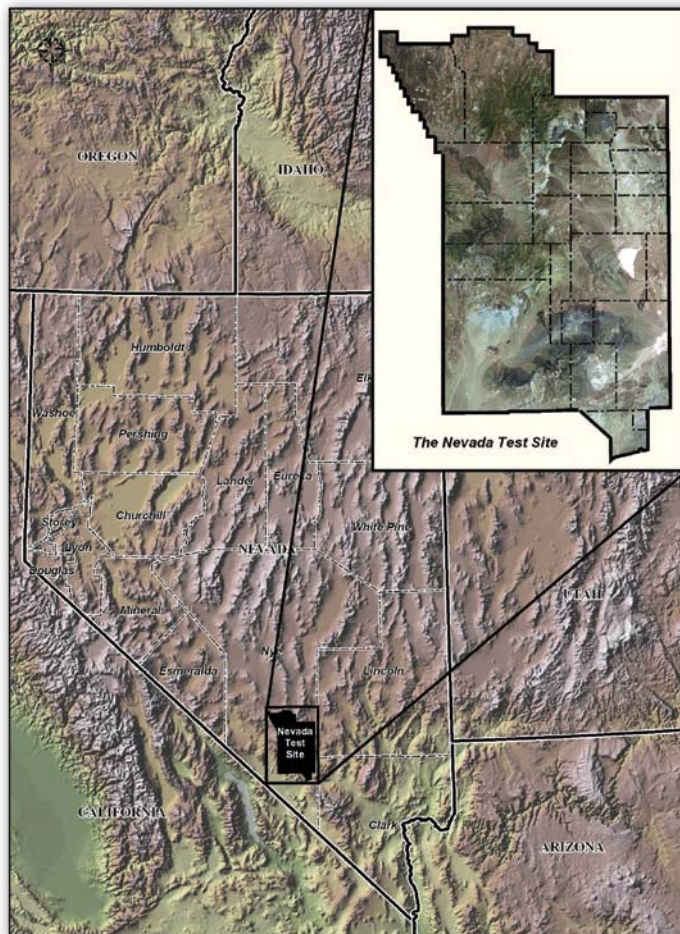
Transformational Changes

The new, modern, efficient, and less expensive, Center of Excellence for High-hazard Testing and Experimentation would achieve over the next 10 years:

- User facilities operated to support national security missions for NNSA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Defense; and
- Over a decade or so, up to 20% fewer staff supporting nuclear weapons activities. These reductions are expected through natural attrition and transfer of personnel to other positions supporting essential national security needs.

Nevada Test Site

This picture shows the existing Nevada Test site. The site has no significant proposed changes for its infrastructure.



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