



Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)

Non-nuclear Design and Engineering and Major Environmental Testing

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).

Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque, New Mexico; Livermore, California; and Other Locations)

SNL conducts systems engineering of nuclear weapons; conducts research, design, and development of non-nuclear components; manufactures non-nuclear weapons components including neutron generators for the stockpile; provides safety, security, and reliability assessments of stockpile weapons; and conducts high-explosives (HE) research and development (R&D) and environmental testing. SNL/New Mexico is currently removing its Category I/II quantities of SNM (special nuclear materials that require the highest level of security) and by the end of 2008 should no longer need Category I/II SNM quantities on a permanent basis. The principal laboratory is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico; a division of the laboratory is located in Livermore, California. Sandia also operates TTR near Tonopah, Nevada, for flight testing. No Category I/II quantities of SNM are permanently maintained at the TTR, although some test operations have involved SNM.

Mission Highlights

SNL would be the Center of Excellence for Non-Nuclear Design and Engineering and the Center of Excellence for Major Environmental Testing, and its mission would be enhanced by:

- Microelectronics & Engineering Science Applications (MESA) complex as an engineering magnet;
- Major weapons environmental testing with TA-3 and other NM facilities;
- Energetic Devices R&D with the Explosives Test Facility; and
- Neutron generator design and manufacturing facilities.

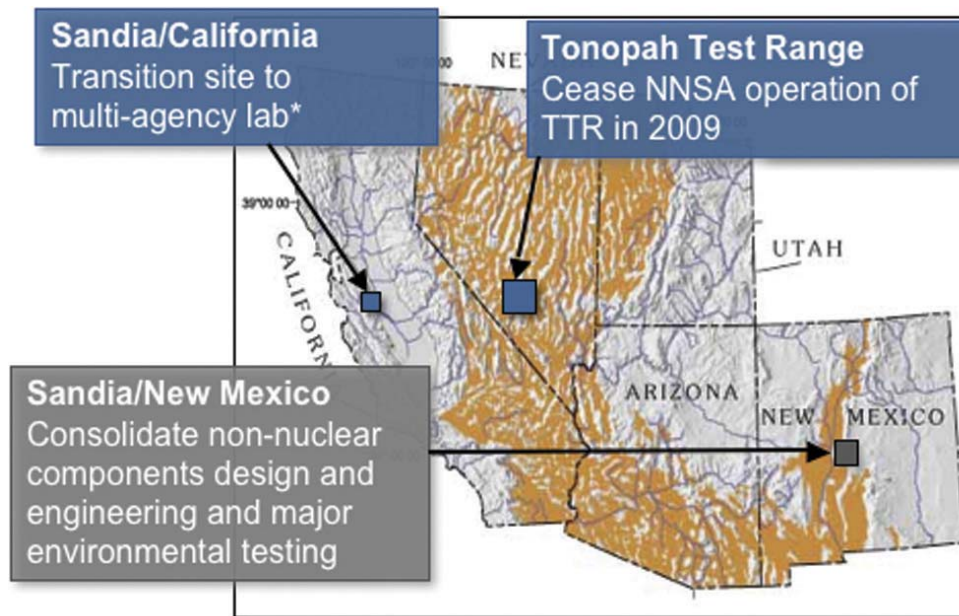
Transformational Changes

The new, modern, efficient, and less expensive Center of Excellence for Non-Nuclear Design and Engineering and Center of Excellence for Major Environmental Testing would achieve over the next 10 years:

- Removing CAT I/II special nuclear material in 2008;
- Transitioning of SNL/California (410 acres) to a multi-agency lab in order to significantly reduce NNSA landlord costs; 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.

Transition of Sites

This graphic shows proposed transition of sites from NNSA weapons account funding at Sandia National laboratories in the future.



*Note: Weapons systems engineering is retained at SNL/CA for LLNL weapons.

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