



## Future of the Nuclear Weapons Complex

As outlined before Congress in its “Complex 2030” plan, NNSA’s future path is to establish a smaller, more efficient Nuclear Weapons Complex that is able to respond to changing national and global security challenges.

By 2030, NNSA will employ a smaller, safer and more secure nuclear weapons stockpile that has assured reliability over the long term, and is backed by the industrial and design capabilities needed to respond to changing technical, geopolitical or military needs.

NNSA’s plans for the future will achieve the President’s vision of the smallest stockpile consistent with our national security needs. In 2004, President Bush directed that the size of the nuclear weapons stockpile be reduced by nearly 50 percent by 2012. At that point the stockpile will be the smallest it has been since the Eisenhower administration.



The Complex 2030 framework includes consolidating nuclear materials and eliminating duplicative capabilities in and around the Nuclear Weapons Complex. The size of the weapons complex has decreased by more than 40 percent since the end of the Cold War and the future plans will allow NNSA to even further reduce the “footprint,” or total square footage, set aside for weapons work at eight sites around the country.

The principal elements of NNSA’s Complex 2030 include:

- Continuing to work on a Reliable Replacement Warhead to ensure the long-term reliability and safety of the nuclear weapons stockpile and enable a more responsive supporting infrastructure while reducing the possibility that the United States would ever need to return to underground nuclear testing;
- Significantly increasing the dismantlement of retired warheads that are no longer part of the stockpile;
- Increasing security and reducing security costs by consolidating special nuclear materials used in nuclear weapons to fewer sites in the complex and fewer locations within the sites;
- Establishing a consolidated plutonium center for research, development, production and surveillance operations; and

- Introducing more uniformity in technical and business practices and more effective risk management to achieve more efficient operations.