

**Statement of
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**before
The Armed Services Committee
United States Senate**

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Good morning, Chairman Thurmond, Senator Levin and Members of the Committee. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today as the president's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation and National Security at the United States Department of Energy.

I assure you that, if confirmed as Assistant Secretary, I will continue to work closely and effectively with members of this Committee and their staff, as I have done in the past. I'm well aware of the critical role that the Armed Services Committee plays in formulating the national security policies of the United States.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the Committee for giving me the opportunity to discuss the goals and priorities of my office.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the Office of Nonproliferation and National Security oversees the unique capabilities that support the core of nuclear nonproliferation activities even as we make efficient use of our unique technical capability to support and develop advanced technologies aiding in the detection and countering of proliferation threats.

The Department plays a vital role in fulfilling the Administration's commitment to nonproliferation and reducing national and international threats from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Our approach to reducing the danger to United States from such weapons involves preventing the spread of WMD materials, technology and expertise; detecting the proliferation of WMD worldwide; reversing the proliferation of nuclear weapons capabilities; and responding to WMD emergencies. We particularly draw upon 50 years of science and technology expertise from the Department of Energy and its National Laboratory complex to help achieve these goals.

Today I would like to highlight our key programs and accomplishments.

ARMS CONTROL

Mr. Chairman, our office of Arms Control continues in its efforts to limit the use of fissile materials worldwide, enable transparent and irreversible nuclear arms reductions, strengthen the nonproliferation regime, and control nuclear related exports. We have had landmark international successes this past year in supporting the United States Government's arms control and nonproliferation goals.

Early September, Secretary Richardson and Senator Dominici participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, to mark US-Russian cooperation to combat the trafficking in nuclear materials.

Two weeks ago, Secretary Bill Richardson and Russian Minister of Atomic Energy, Yevgeny Adamov, signed an agreement on the Nuclear Cities Initiative (NCI). Drawing on our extensive United States Government experience, the Initiative is a cooperative effort to diversify the economy of the ten closed cities as the Russians downsize their nuclear weapons complex. The agreement establishes a framework and a legal basis for the initiative and facilitates the participation of multiple Russian and U.S. agencies.

Materials, Protection, Control and Accounting (MPC&A) is a program in which the Department of Energy's scientist and engineers are working with their counterparts in the Russian Federation, the Newly Independent States (NIS), and the Baltics to protect highly enriched uranium and plutonium used in nuclear weapons. This year major MPC&A upgrades are underway at fifty-three (53) sites throughout the Former Soviet Union. We are working not only at civilian reactor sites, but we are also working with the Russians at sites in their weapons production complex. This is a significant change from where we were when the program began in 1994 and illustrates the solid working relationship that has developed with Russia in this program.

SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY

Mr. Chairman, since I arrived to the Department of Energy, the security of the Department's nuclear weapon's stockpile has been a particular focus of our work. Former Secretary Pena charged us to remember that "The Cold War may be over, but the potential threat to our nation's security is not. At the Department of Energy sites, where we are dismantling and cleaning up after 50 years of building nuclear weapons, we face new security challenges that demand new security solutions."

This year the Department released two reports on safeguards and security. Although neither report indicated any immediate danger to nuclear material, they emphasized that improvements were necessary at a number of Energy Department sites. To address the issues in the reports, we have increased security personnel at Department sites that include Hanford, the Nevada Test Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Security systems and equipment at several sites are being upgraded, including a major security system upgrade at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Declassification program, which complements the safeguards and security effort, continues to make information that is no longer sensitive available to the public while identifying information that warrants

continued protection in the interest of national security and nonproliferation. To that extent, we project that we will review 1.5 million pages of classified documents for possible declassification and release to the public in 1999.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Chairman, as you are keenly aware, the Department of Energy provides expertise in our national response to emergencies involving nuclear materials. To effectively provide a response to a nuclear emergency, the Department plays a lead agency role, cooperating with other agencies of the United States Government to field an interagency response with the appropriate mix of infrastructure, technology, and operational capabilities.

The terrorist threat is an increasingly important one. Our office of Emergency Management works with the other federal agencies in the effort to develop an effective response to any terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction. The office is a full partner in the Domestic Preparedness program that works directly with the cities to develop appropriate responses to terrorist acts.

NONPROLIFERATION R&D

Mr. Chairman, our office of Research and Development continues to make great strides in developing systems that detect and monitor the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The program has developed a number of monitoring systems which have been invaluable to the United States Government.

Our development of satellite-based sensor systems for the Air Force provides the national capability to monitor for nuclear detonations that is currently onboard the Global Positioning System and Defense Support Program satellites. Another project provides prototype monitoring systems for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) International Monitoring System.

In the area of detecting proliferation, our research program is developing both active and passive technologies to enable detection at long ranges. These technologies focus on detecting the signatures characteristic of various phases of the nuclear weapons development process. We have also been placing new emphasis on chemical and biological detection systems. The Department not only coordinates these programs with the agencies responsible for the operational missions, but also creates joint and cooperative development programs with them.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, during this past year, the Office of Nonproliferation and National Security has supported the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection, to address the growing concerns of domestic terrorist activities and both physical security and cyber threats to infrastructures that are increasingly dependent on technology and information. The Department has lead responsibilities for the electrical power and gas and oil sectors, and we have been working closely both inside the government and with industry to resolve these important problems.

Again, Mr. Chairman, Senator Levin, and members of this Committee, it is an honor to be nominated and to appear before you today. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you