

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2001

NNSA Organizational Redress Strengthens Path Forward

John A. Gordon, Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today his plan for organizing the NNSA within the U.S. Department of Energy. The planned actions will improve performance of the core mission to strengthen national security and reduce the global threat from weapons of mass destruction through applications of science and technology.

The Administration celebrated its one year anniversary on March 1, 2001, and has undertaken a sizeable set of operating and restructuring tasks mandated by Congress. Today, Gordon announced several strategic steps forward to help the Administration achieve mission goals. "At the one year mark we can be proud of the progress we have made." Gordon said, "We have been very deliberative in establishing NNSA. The time has come to step out boldly."

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said, "I commend Administrator Gordon for taking these initial steps to reorganize the NNSA. The NNSA's vital national security missions require the best possible management and organization, and I look forward to continuing to work with General Gordon to ensure the success of these important goals."

"The changes and structural realignments we are making will help us focus on our mission and take our destiny firmly into our own hands," Gordon said.

NNSA will create two new Associate Administrators to realign and separate programmatic and operational functions. The Associate Administrator, Management and Administration will be tasked to ensure efficient management of budget, finance, procurement, information and people; the Associate Administrator, Facilities and Operations will ensure responsible stewardship of our facilities.

The changes are designed to consolidate oversight and assessment of security, safety and environmental issues at NNSA sites; establish clear and direct lines of communication for laboratory directors and plant managers; clarify the roles and responsibilities of NNSA headquarters and field offices; define clear lines of authority; establish greater personal accountability; and improve productivity and morale.

"The reorganization initiative is key to developing a Corporate NNSA that can integrate and balance priorities across the NNSA's missions and infrastructure," Gordon said. "Building a corporate NNSA unifies the organization and makes it a more cohesive whole."

The Administration is in the process of identifying senior leaders to fill the new posts. These individuals, working as a team with the Deputy Administrators, will develop an implementation plan that will be submitted to Congress by May 1, 2001. Gordon expects to fully implement the reorganization by October 1, 2001.

In addition to announcing the reorganization, the NNSA has given its web site a make over. The revamped page showcases NNSA people and programs through interconnecting links. So, take a cyber trek to our national laboratories and plants where great work goes on everyday. Surf around our Operations and Area office pages where you'll find people dedicated to technical excellence, science, and engineering. The NNSA Home Page can be viewed at www.nnsa.doe.gov.

News Media Contacts:

Bernard Pleau
202-786-7515

NNSA-01-01