PANTEX PLANT: ASSEMBLY/DISASSEMBLY AND HIGH EXPLOSIVES (HE) PRODUCTION & MACHINING

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).

PANTEX PLANT (AMARILLO, TEXAS)

Pantex dismantles retired weapons; fabricates high-explosive (HE) components and performs HE research and development (R&D); assembles HE, nuclear, and non-nuclear components into nuclear weapons; repairs and modifies weapons; performs non-intrusive pit modification; and evaluates and performs surveillance of weapons. Pantex maintains Category I/II quantities of SNM (special nuclear materials that require the highest level of security) for the weapons program and stores SNM in the form of surplus plutonium pits pending transfer to Savannah River Site for disposition.

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Pantex will be the *Center of Excellence for Assembly/Disassembly* of nuclear weapons as well as the *Center of Excellence for High Explosives (HE) Production & Machining,* and its mission will be enhanced by:

- Non-destructive weapon/ pit surveillance with the existing Weapons Engineering and Testing Lab (WETL) and proposed, new Weapons Surveillance Facility (WSF);
- Updated HE machining and production facilities; and
- Consolidated weapon and pit storage with the new underground Zone 12 storage facility.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGES

The new, modern, efficient, and less expensive *Center of Excellence for Assembly/ Disassembly* as well as the *Center of Excellence for High Explosives (HE) Production & Machining* will achieve over the next 10 years:

- SNM consolidated, enabled by Zone 4 closure;

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COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION

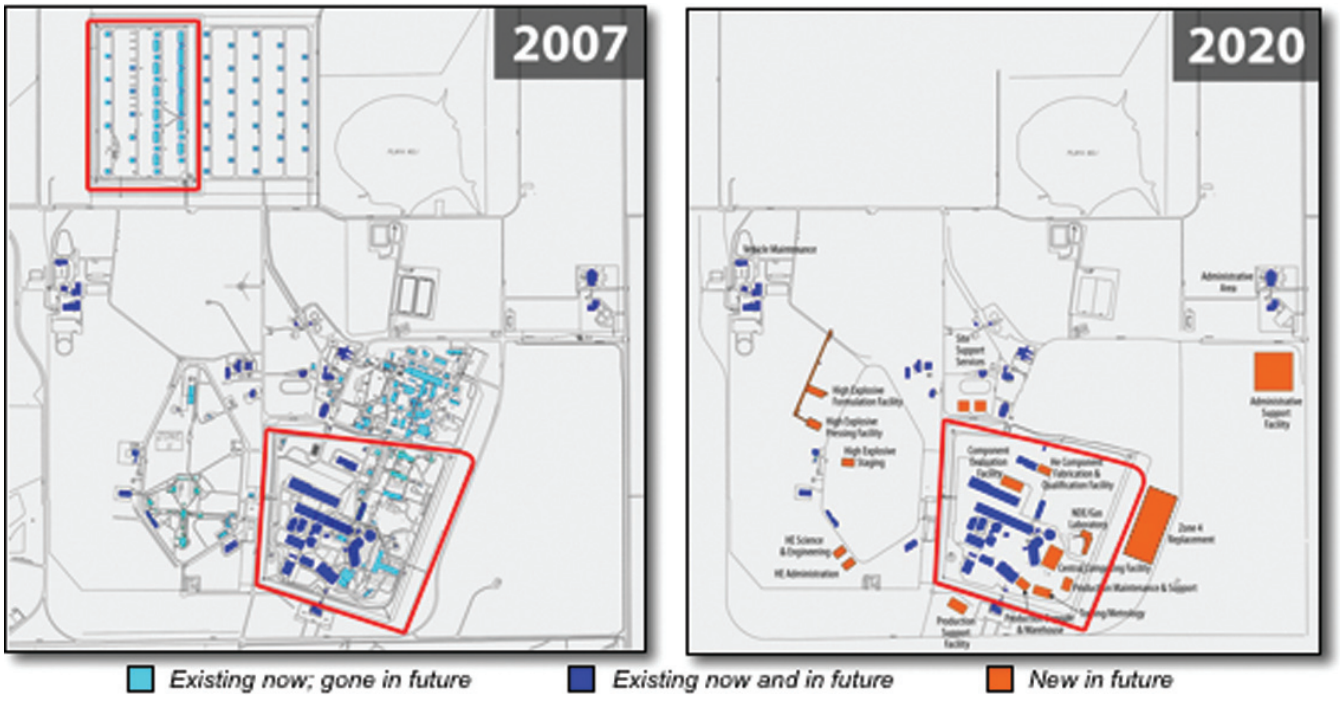
National Nuclear Security Administration

PANTEX PLANT: ASSEMBLY/DISASSEMBLY AND HIGH EXPLOSIVES (HE) PRODUCTION & MACHINING

TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGES (Cont.)

- 45% reduction of the high security perimeter;
- 25% reduction of the total building footprint;
- Over a decade or so, up to 5% to 10% 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.

This graphic shows the proposed reduction of the high security area through the proposed closure of the Zone 4 storage facility and reduction of building square footage at Pantex in the future.



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