



NEWS

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NNSA Implements Reorganization **New operation to take effect December 20**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) moves Friday to a new organizational structure that eliminates a layer of management and sets the agency on a course to achieve a 20 percent reduction in federal personnel by the end of Fiscal Year 2004 (FY ’04).

NNSA Acting Administrator Linton Brooks said today that the reorganization follows the principles of the President’s Management Agenda, which strives to improve government through performance and results. “In keeping with President Bush’s vision, we are streamlining operations and oversight while clarifying roles and responsibilities. The new, more responsive organization will improve federal management of our nuclear weapons complex,” he said.

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham applauded the NNSA action, which, he noted, “implements the President’s desire to make government more efficient and responsive and to focus on clear lines of accountability.”

While the entire organizational structure is changing, the NNSA field organization will see the most dramatic change. Currently, the site offices that oversee NNSA’s contractor operations report to headquarters through three operations offices in Oakland, Calif., Las Vegas, Nev., and Albuquerque, N.M. Beginning Friday, all site offices will report directly to the NNSA administrator through the principal deputy. The operations office system will be eliminated.

An NNSA Service Center, providing procurement, human resources and other support services to the site offices, will be established using the expertise of the former operations offices. The NNSA Service Center will be located in Albuquerque. Consolidation of personnel will be completed by the end of FY ’04, after which the Oakland office will close and the Nevada office will be reduced in size and concentrate on management of the Nevada Test Site.

Overall, approximately 20 percent will be trimmed from NNSA’s federal workforce at headquarters and in the field by the end of FY ’04, with headquarters taking a 30 percent cut. The reduction will be accomplished through managed attrition. Security forces and the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program will not be affected by the staff reductions.

“We have worked hard this year to make sure our reorganization is done right. We will manage the reductions in a way that is fair to our outstanding people, while ensuring that the NNSA of the future will have a world-class business environment that eliminates duplication and micromanagement and provides more effective federal oversight,” Brooks said.

NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency that carries out the national security responsibilities of the Department of Energy. It maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, promotes international nuclear non-proliferation, and provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion.

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