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National Nuclear Security Administration Personnel Appointments Announced

Administrator Gordon Submits Organizational Plan to Congress

Key leadership team appointments at the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) were announced today by Gen. John A. Gordon, Department of Energy Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator. On May 4, Gordon formally submitted a plan to Congress for organizing NNSA, as required by the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Gordon said he has requested that Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham appoint Dr. Robert Kuckuck to be Acting Principal Deputy Administrator for NNSA. Kuckuck, a physicist, recently retired after a distinguished 38-year career in technical and operational management roles at NNSA's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. His expertise includes nuclear treaty verification research and program management. Kuckuck will be appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service for a limited term.

Gordon has also requested the reassignment of William Barker, Director of the Defense Programs Strategic Planning Office, to be Acting Chief of Staff; Ralph Erickson, Acting Chief Operating Officer for Defense Programs, to be Acting Associate Administrator for Facilities and Operations; Anthony Lane, Director of the Defense Programs Office of Program Analysis and Financial Management, to be Acting Associate Administrator for Management and Administration; and Michael Kane, NNSA Personnel Director and DOE Headquarters Procurement Director, to be Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Management and Administration. Robert DeGrasse, NNSA Senior Advisor for Organizational Development and Strategic Planning, will coordinate the redesign of NNSA management processes.

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“Starting today, with these personnel appointments and the release of our Organizational Plan, the NNSA begins the detailed implementation process necessary to stand up all the parts of the NNSA organization by October 1, 2001,” Gordon said.

The Organizational Plan describes the realignment of the NNSA structure into program and support components, a common practice in many large public and private sector enterprises. The program components – Defense Programs and Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation – will focus on defining and advocating the most effective means of accomplishing the NNSA mission, he said.

“The two new support components -- Facilities and Operations and Management and Administration -- will focus on the enabling functions that are critical to mission success,” Gordon said. “The structure we are putting in place will strengthen national security and reduce the global threat from weapons of mass destruction through applications of science and technology.”

The plan will not change the management of Naval Reactors, which will remain separately managed as specified in the National Nuclear Security Act.

Congress created the NNSA last year as a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy. It oversees the work of the national laboratories and production plants that constitute the nation’s nuclear weapons complex. The agency has responsibility to maintain and enhance the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile; to provide the Navy with effective nuclear power plants; to promote international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; to reduce the global danger from weapons of mass destruction; and to support American leadership in science and technology.

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