

Written Testimony of Glenn S. Podonsky
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INTRODUCTION

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to testify today on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Budget Request for the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS). As the central organization within the Department of Energy (Department or DOE) responsible for health, safety, and security, providing corporate-level leadership and strategic vision to coordinate and integrate these programs, HSS provides the Department with effective and consistent policy development, technical assistance, safety analysis, corporate safety and security programs, safety and security training, DOE-wide independent oversight, and regulatory enforcement. HSS also provides effective cross-organizational coordination to resolve Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board-(DNFSB) related technical and management issues to ensure worker and public health and safety. As the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer, I advise the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on all matters related to health, safety, and security across the complex.

DOE has made a commitment to maintain safe and secure work environments for all Federal and contractor employees and to ensure that its operations do not adversely affect the health, safety, or security of the surrounding communities or the nation. It is HSS' job to help the Department fulfill that commitment, and we do so through programs and activities aimed at assisting the Department accomplish its critical scientific, energy, and national security missions in ways that ensure the health, safety, and security of DOE workers and vital assets.

The written testimony is provided in two parts. The first provides highlights regarding various activities administered by HSS, and the second is a summary of the FY 2013 budget request identifying all HSS activities.

PRINCIPLE HSS ACTIVITIES

HSS is responsible for a wide range of activities crucial to the Department's efforts to safely and securely pursue its mission objectives and to ensure that the Department fulfills its national and international obligations related to the health, safety and security of its activities. Principle activities related to HSS responsibilities are summarized in the following paragraphs.

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In January 2012, HSS published an Independent Oversight assessment of nuclear safety culture and management of nuclear safety concerns at the Hanford Site Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP), a follow-up to the October 2010 HSS review of the WTP nuclear safety culture. The WTP is DOE's largest ongoing design and construction project, with an estimated cost of over \$12 billion and a current workforce of about 3000, and plans to transition to an operating nuclear facility in 2019. HSS accelerated its schedule for the follow-up assessment in response to an August 2011 request from the Senior Advisor for Environmental Management that cited the serious concerns that had been raised about the safety culture at WTP. This follow-up assessment also satisfied a Secretarial commitment to DNFSB Recommendation 2011-1, *Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*. The assessment focused on the DOE organizations with site-level line management responsibility for WTP – the Office of River Protection and the DOE WTP Project Office – and the site contractor – Bechtel National, Incorporated, including its subcontractors. Results of the assessment indicated that most WTP personnel believed that safety was a high priority. However, a significant number of both Federal and contractor staff expressed reluctance to raise safety or quality concerns, leading to the conclusion that significant management attention at both Federal and contractor organizations is needed to improve the safety culture at WTP. In addition, the assessment identified significant concerns regarding the processes for developing nuclear design and safety basis and for managing safety issues. The development and implementation of corrective actions to address the specific issues identified are ongoing. As part of a broader extent-of-condition assessment, and based on the results of this assessment, HSS will more fully evaluate DOE Headquarters organizations to gather additional information about the role of Headquarters line management organizations in the safety culture and management of safety issues at WTP. The results of these assessments will provide recommended next steps for continuous improvements.

HSS supports the Department's commitment to a safety culture that encourages all employees to pursue safe performance of work, promotes a questioning attitude, and ensures that executing mission goals safely is not just a slogan but a value shared by all. Towards that end, and as specified in the explanatory statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act Conference Report, 2012, HSS, in coordination with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the Office of Environmental Management, the Office of Engineering and Construction Management, and the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, is conducting a review of all DOE nuclear facility construction projects with a total project cost greater than \$1 billion to determine if those projects are being managed in a way that could pressure contractors or Department managers to lessen nuclear safety in order to demonstrate acceptable project performance.

HSS continues to conduct rigorous independent oversight appraisals of DOE performance in the areas of safeguards and security, cyber security, nuclear safety, emergency management, and environment, safety and health. Information gained from these appraisals provides Departmental senior management, line management, HSS, and other policy organizations the information they need to effect improvements in these programs. In FY 2011, HSS conducted more than 50 independent appraisals of DOE, NNSA, and Power Marketing Administration operations, with a particular focus on new nuclear facility construction and safety basis upgrades for existing nuclear facilities, the physical protection of Category I special nuclear material, and DOE

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capabilities for managing and mitigating the effects of the most highly advanced cyber security threats.

HSS continues implementation of the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report GAO-09-61, *Department of Energy Needs to Strengthen its Independent Oversight of Nuclear Facilities and Operations*, as requested in the explanatory statement accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009. Activities include performing increased reviews of high hazard nuclear operations to evaluate programs and processes for developing, maintaining, and implementing nuclear facility safety bases and implementing safety basis technical safety requirements; performing cross-cutting reviews of selected nuclear safety topical areas based on information derived from metrics, data analysis, performance trends, and changes in requirements; and more closely monitoring corrective action implementation to ensure effective resolution of remaining issues. In FY 2012, HSS completed the establishment of the HSS nuclear safety site lead program to facilitate improved targeting of safety-related oversight activities based on operational risk and facility conditions. HSS site leads are experienced nuclear safety professionals assigned to monitor operations at sites with nuclear facilities and activities. The knowledge obtained through site lead operational awareness is utilized to make informed decisions in selecting and prioritizing independent oversight reviews that are tailored to the site's conditions. HSS also continues to provide unrestricted access to nuclear safety appraisal reports while ensuring continued compliance with information security requirements.

HSS coordinated the Department's internal focus on responding to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster by developing Safety Bulletin 2011-1, *Events Beyond Design Safety Basis Analysis*, issued by the Secretary in March 2011, which outlined DOE's initial actions in assessing DOE facilities' safety characteristics under beyond-design-basis conditions, such as those occurring at Fukushima Daiichi. HSS conducted a nuclear safety workshop in June 2011, bringing together experts from DOE as well as commercial nuclear organizations to explore key concepts and elements for ensuring nuclear safety at Department facilities and discussing the actions that both the Department and the commercial nuclear industry have taken in response to Fukushima. Following the workshop, HSS coordinated the development of recommendations issued by the Secretary in a report titled *Review of Requirements and Capabilities for Analyzing and Responding to Beyond Design Basis Events*. HSS is now working with DOE program offices to complete all resulting recommended actions by the end of 2012.

HSS promotes continuous improvement in the Department's safety and security programs through management and implementation of the DOE enforcement programs that are required under 10 C.F.R. Part 820, *Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities*; Part 824, *Procedural Rules for the Assessment of Civil Penalties for Classified Information Security Violations*; and Part 851, *Worker Health and Safety Program*. These rules provide the Department with multiple enforcement mechanisms through which it can effectively impact contractor safety and security performance in conjunction with the contract mechanisms available to the DOE line organizations. HSS and NNSA carefully evaluate the circumstances of each particular case and the performance of the contractor(s) involved to select the appropriate enforcement vehicle when such action is warranted. In FY 2011, HSS completed 13 enforcement investigations (four for worker safety, seven for nuclear safety, and two for classified information security) that resulted in the issuance of a notice of violation, consent order, settlement agreement, or special report

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order. HSS also issued several enforcement letters for events and non-compliant conditions that had been discovered and promptly and aggressively addressed by the contractors in accordance with the Department's expectations.

HSS continues to interface with other Federal departments and agencies, such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of Defense (DoD), to share information and coordinate efforts in strengthening the Department's and the Nation's overall safety and security posture. Additionally, HSS outreach efforts go beyond other Federal departments and agencies to include national and local labor unions, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. These efforts have resulted in improved understanding of the health, safety, and security issues facing the Department's workers and the development of solutions for these issues.

HSS coordinates the Department's efforts with DOL and HHS's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to better facilitate the implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). HSS will continue to increase the level of coordination and improve the interface between the DOL EEOICPA and the DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) to increase the efficiency and timeliness of providing benefits to eligible personnel who have contracted a covered illness as a result of working at a DOE facility. In FY 2011, HSS, in cooperation with the grantee service providers, implemented program efficiencies in the FWP to ensure some 8,000 medical screenings continue to be performed each year for those former workers who want them. HSS continues to conduct additional outreach efforts to inform former workers of the program's benefits.

HSS continues to meet the United States' international commitments with the Governments of Russia, Japan, and the Marshall Islands in the area of the health effects of ionizing radiation. In cooperation with the Department of State, HSS assisted in renewing, through 2014, the Radiation Effects Research agreement between the United States and Russia to conduct research of worker and population radiation exposure near Russian nuclear production operations. This research contributes to improving and revising U.S. and international radiation protection standards and practices by estimating cancer risks from exposure to radiation. HSS has strengthened the Department's relationship with the Government of Japan by assisting the completion of a high-level review of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation's future activities concerning the health status of the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. HSS continues to oversee a combined medical care and logistics cooperative agreement to provide efficient and effective annual comprehensive medical examinations and treatments to the people of the Marshall Islands exposed to radiation during the 1946-1958 U.S. nuclear testing program in the Pacific, and continued environmental monitoring through the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

HSS is responsible for maintaining the Department's safety and security directives that are designed to ensure a safe environment for Departmental workers and the public; provide effective security for National assets entrusted to the Department; and meet commitments to the Department's stakeholders, Congress and the DNFSB. These directives establish clear expectations in such areas as: nanotechnology, worker safety, protection program operations,

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graded security protection, quality assurance, high performance sustainable building, environmental protection, radiation protection, nuclear safety, nuclear materials packaging, information security, nuclear material control and accountability, and Federal technical capabilities. In FY 2008, HSS began amending the 107 safety and security directives to eliminate unnecessary requirements and shift toward performance-based requirements to provide meaningful, clear, concise directives that are not overly prescriptive or duplicative. In FY 2010, at the direction of the Deputy Secretary of Energy, HSS implemented additional safety and security reforms designed to reduce the administrative burden on Departmental operations while maintaining the highest standards of safe and secure operations. HSS achieved its project milestone of completing all directive revisions, or submitting them for concurrence, by September 30, 2011. As of December 31, 2011, 102 of the 107 HSS directives (95 percent) were completed (revised, re-certified, or cancelled). The other five are in concurrence review and are projected to be finalized in FY 2012.

HSS, in collaboration with DOE program and site offices, assists with developing strategies for embedding sustainability principles in site operations. HSS has successfully assisted DOE organizations in establishing formal Environmental Management Systems that integrate mission achievement with energy and environmental objectives. As a result of implementing these systems, DOE in FY 2011 achieved an 86 percent waste diversion rate equating to the diversion of nearly one million metric tons of end-of-life materials from disposal. Also, 15 DOE sites were recognized by the EPA Federal Electronics Challenge program; DOE received over 40 percent of all such awards given across the Federal government. In addition, HSS works with the DOE Sustainability Performance Office to support outstanding environmental performance through the DOE Sustainability Awards program. This year, the Deputy Secretary presented 31 awards to teams and individuals from across the DOE complex. In collaboration with the DOE Office of Procurement and Assistance Management, HSS initiated new tracking and recognition programs for sustainable acquisition that assists the Department in identifying successes and challenges in acquiring products and services with sustainable attributes (e.g., recycled content), thereby contributing to the reduction of the Department's energy and environmental footprint and the amount of waste requiring disposal.

The National Training Center (NTC) continues to provide training and professional development services to DOE and DOE contractor employees. In FY 2011 over 5,000 students attended 252 courses or completed eLearning/self-study courses; and the NTC developed, updated, and conducted training in such areas as physical security, vulnerability assessments, protective force operations and tactics, personnel security management and adjudication, and nuclear safety. Emphasis placed on improving safety training courses resulted in updating or revising 40 courses and the deployment of three new safety training courses, *Unreviewed Safety Question, Review and Approval of Nuclear Safety Basis Documents*, and *Safety Instrumented Systems*. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DOE standardized training, the NTC Training Approval Program certifies DOE sites to provide NTC courses and to develop and deliver safeguards and security training at their locations. In addition, the NTC has enhanced its eLearning capabilities in order to offer more of its training through interactive computer-based courses. The NTC continues to partner with DOE site management, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and worker union representatives to assess and identify opportunities for improvements in the Department's safety training processes and courses. The latest outcome of these efforts is

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the deployment of common safety training programs for new site employees at the Oak Ridge Reservation, minimizing delays in productivity.

HSS continues to assist the DOE/NNSA complex in the implementation of the Graded Security Protection (GSP) policy which establishes requirements that a site's multiple security layers and protection elements are fully evaluated and that each site assesses a range of threats and scenarios. HSS activities in support of GSP implementation consist of performance testing, independent oversight evaluations, and onsite technical field assistance. Teams of experts with skills in information security, personnel security, physical security systems, hazardous materials, performance testing, and vulnerability assessment and risk management interact with DOE/NNSA headquarters program offices and field sites to evaluate cost-efficient, highly effective safeguards and security programs. NNSA utilizes Zero-Based Security Reviews (ZBSR) and security-based deep dives designed to identify and eliminate programmatic fragmentation, reduce costs, promote security improvements and standardize the implementation of select security requirements across NNSA in order to provide clear and consistent performance expectations for security disciplines. At NNSA's request, HSS provided resources to conduct ZBSRs at three locations and deep dives at four locations. As a result of these efforts, the GSP policy has been fully implemented at nine sites; and the Y-12 National Security Complex provided an approved project management plan for full implementation by the end of FY 2012. While the Department has made considerable progress in implementing its long-term security planning policy, the dynamic nature of the threat, the critical mission of the Department, and the grave consequences associated with the theft and/or misuse of a nuclear weapon or special nuclear material require that DOE continue to improve and implement robust security processes, to include: periodic assessments by subject matter experts; formal collaborations on security processes with DoD and other government agencies; a rigorous training and performance testing program; coordination with the U.S. Intelligence Community; application of the principles of risk management; and independent oversight evaluations and technical field assistance by HSS.

HSS continues to manage the classification, declassification, and controlled information activity to ensure that the Department meets its statutory responsibility under the Atomic Energy Act to implement the U.S. Government-wide program to classify and declassify nuclear weapons-related information (i.e., Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data) in order to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology. HSS implements the Department's policy of protecting classified and other sensitive information and releasing information that can be released without harming national security. HSS is completing a fundamental review of its National Security Information guidance as required under Executive Order (E.O.) 13526, *Classified National Security Information*, to refine and reaffirm what information must be protected. HSS continues to assist DOE, other U.S. agencies and other governments in managing classified information through training programs, identifying classified information, and developing consistent rules for handling nuclear weapon information. Over the past three years HSS has achieved, and works to maintain, a reduced backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests by ensuring that classification reviews that once took months or years to complete now take only days. Additionally, HSS continues to support the National Archives effort to review over 400 million pages of historical records by December 31, 2013, as directed by E.O. 13526. The law requires that these records be reviewed for nuclear weapon information by their

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originating agency and assigns DOE the role of verifying that these reviews are of sufficient quality to prevent the inadvertent release of classified nuclear weapon design information. In response to the President's mandate, HSS has significantly increased its resources at the National Archives and, working with the National Declassification Center, streamlined its quality control sampling methods to better handle the huge volume of records. As of December 31, 2011, over 100 million of the 400 million pages had been reviewed. It has recently come to the attention of the National Archives that agencies now have over 700 million additional pages of records in special media form that must be screened for nuclear weapon information.

HSS manages a number of viable safety indicators applicable to most DOE contractor operations that provide Departmental leadership, line management, and stakeholders with timely information to gauge the success of Departmental safety program implementation. These safety performance indicators and trends are developed and analyzed by HSS utilizing DOE operational and occurrence data collected through various reporting mechanisms and provided through Internet-based tools and databases. In addition, HSS periodically conducts in-depth assessments on safety issues that challenge the Department. Results are used to focus the Department's efforts to prevent adverse events such as serious injuries or loss of life; overexposures to radiation, hazardous materials, or other hazardous conditions; inadvertent offsite releases of nuclear and non-nuclear materials; nuclear criticality events; and localized fires and explosions that would negatively impact the Department's ability to accomplish its mission. HSS is also taking action to increase the transparency of the Department's safety performance to the public through the use of the Internet and other outreach activities.

FY 2013 BUDGET REQUEST OVERVIEW

The HSS FY 2013 budget request of \$245,500,000 includes \$139,325,000 for the Health, Safety and Security Program and \$106,175,000 for Program Direction. A summary of the activities to be conducted in FY 2013 with the requested funding is as follows.

The HSS FY 2013 request reflects reduced reliance on contractor services and elimination of activities that will least impact the most important priorities central to the Department's commitment to maintaining safety and security excellence, especially those related to high-risk, high-consequence activities. The FY 2013 request reflects the elimination of some domestic health research; a reduction of 26 Federal full-time equivalent positions and associated salaries and benefits; decreased reliance on contractor support for health, safety, environment, and security policy, assistance, and training activities via implementation of operational efficiencies and increased reliance on the Federal workforce; and efficiencies in DOE Headquarters security operations. Some of these savings are applied to increase funding for nuclear safety and cyber security oversight; nuclear safety policy, assistance, and enforcement; and former worker medical screening activities.

Worker Safety (\$4,846,000) Worker safety and health policies promote safe work practices to support Departmental objectives regarding best-in-class safety performance exceeding that achieved by similar industrial operations. Funding supports increased assurance that mission-related work is conducted with a full understanding of the potential worker health- and safety-

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related risks, application of controls necessary to mitigate those risks, and avoidance of future liabilities associated with worker compensation programs. Funding provides for research, efforts to update and maintain existing standards, and the development of new safety and health requirements based on new or evolving working conditions, when warranted; technical assistance to DOE programs, laboratories, and sites in the implementation of health and safety requirements and programs; and implementation of corporate health- and safety-related programs and information technology systems. Funding also provides for collecting, analyzing, and trending operational safety data to identify strengths and weaknesses of safety programs at Departmental facilities and programs that support continuous improvement through shared operating experience.

Nuclear Safety (\$9,696,000) Nuclear Safety activities include establishing and maintaining nuclear safety policies and requirements to ensure adequate protection of workers, the public, and the environment from hazards associated with nuclear facilities and operations. These activities also establish general facility safety requirements in the areas of fire protection, natural phenomena hazards, maintenance and quality assurance to ensure that products and services meet or exceed the Department's objectives in each of these areas, as well as providing assistance to field elements with respect to the implementation of requirements and in resolving nuclear safety, facility safety, and quality assurance issues.

Environment (\$2,407,000) Environmental activities support the Secretary's strategic sustainability performance objectives by fostering efficient use of resources and energy throughout DOE operations, assisting in the responsible management of natural and cultural resources on and around DOE facilities, reducing the carbon footprint of DOE activities, and avoiding future liabilities in these areas. Funding provides technical support for the development of policies, requirements, and guidance related to environmental compliance; the encouragement of green purchasing; sustainable environmental stewardship, pollution prevention, and greenhouse gas reduction; and implementation of environmental performance tracking and reporting across the DOE complex. Environmental activities also provide technical support for maintaining DOE's radiation protection framework (including research and development of computer-based tools), thereby implementing its Atomic Energy Act responsibilities to provide protection to the public and the environment consistent with national and international radiation protection standards and Departmental risk management strategies.

Health Programs (\$51,790,000) Health Programs support domestic and international health studies to investigate and identify work-related injuries and illnesses in DOE workers and the public surrounding DOE sites and other radiation exposure-related activities. The benefits of these projects and programs include discovering and documenting health effect outcomes that provide the scientific basis for the national and international worker protection policy and standards that DOE uses to provide the levels of protection appropriate for the risks posed to workers by hazards present at DOE sites. Domestic health research activities provide support to National assets used to respond to radiological events throughout the country and to the conduct of health studies on communities surrounding DOE sites. Former worker medical screening activities provide for the conduct of medical screenings for former DOE and DOE-related beryllium vendor employees to identify adverse health conditions that may have resulted from work conducted at DOE facilities or at beryllium vendors on behalf of DOE. Workers who are

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found to have illnesses related to work on behalf of DOE are referred to DOL for potential compensation through EEOICPA. DOE supports DOL's implementation of EEOICPA by providing information regarding employment status, exposures to radiation and toxic substances, and operational history of DOE facilities in support of claims filed by current and former DOE Federal and contractor employees. International health activities include the:

- Russian health studies program – a collaborative research program between the United States and Russia to determine the risks associated with working at or living near Russian former nuclear weapons production sites;
- Japanese health studies – a bi-national undertaking by the United States and Japan to conduct epidemiologic studies and medical surveillance of the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and
- Marshall Islands program – radiological medical surveillance and cancer care and treatment of the Marshallese and environmental monitoring in support of safe resettlement of four atolls.

Enforcement (\$1,947,000) DOE's worker safety and health, nuclear safety, and classified information security enforcement activities implement congressionally mandated programs specified in 10 C.F.R. 851, Worker Safety and Health Program; 10 C.F.R. 820, Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities; and 10 C.F.R. 824, Procedural Rules for the Assessment of Civil Penalties for Classified Information Security Violations. The goals of these enforcement activities are to ensure that DOE contractors adhere to worker safety and health, nuclear safety, and classified information security regulations, and to promote proactive improvement of worker and nuclear safety and security performance through timely self-identification, reporting, and correction of non-compliant conditions, to enable contractors to achieve excellence in mission accomplishment without the need for enforcement actions.

Safety and Security Training (\$15,000,000) This activity develops and maintains the proficiency and competency and builds the management excellence of DOE safety and security personnel, in direct support of Secretarial objectives, through standardized training for the protection of the environment, the safety and health of the public and the workforce, and the security of critical Departmental and national security assets. The DOE NTC, located in Albuquerque, NM, serves as the primary resource for DOE safety and security training.

Security Operational Support (\$5,762,000) Security operational support activities provide technical and field expertise to Federal staff to develop Department-wide safeguards and security requirements and guidance; provide assistance to DOE operations; and maintain and manage corporate-level safeguards and security-related programs and information technology systems. These activities support all Secretarial objectives by providing a tailored level of security requirements for a wide range of Departmental scientific, research, and national security objectives based on the security significance of their national assets. Security policies, requirements, and guidance are developed to be clear and easily implemented, with the goals of securing nuclear material and classified matter and protecting the highly specialized and trained DOE workforce.

Classification, Declassification and Controlled Information (\$8,707,000) The classification, declassification, and controlled information activity ensures that the Department meets its

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statutory responsibility to implement the U.S. Government-wide program to classify and declassify nuclear weapons-related information (i.e., Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data) in order to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology. Funding for this activity supports the implementation of E.O. 13526, Classified National Security Information, to classify other information critical to national security (i.e., National Security Information), such as security-related information concerning our nuclear sites, energy critical infrastructure information, and chemical/biological, and radiological dispersal devices. With the issuance of E.O. 13526 and, more recently, E.O. 13556, Controlled Unclassified Information, technical support will be used to develop implementation policies, requirements, and guidance documentation.

Security Investigations (\$9,850,000) Security investigations provides support to Departmental personnel security programs associated with providing access authorizations (security clearances) to DOE Federal and contractor personnel who, in the performance of their official duties, require access to classified information or certain quantities of special nuclear material, as required by section 145 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and E.O. 12968, *Access to Classified Information*. The conduct of investigations and granting of access authorizations is based on 10 C.F.R. 710, *Criteria and Procedures for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Matter or Special Nuclear Material*. Funding provides support for the development and maintenance of DOE policies, requirements, and guidance; technical assistance; programmatic oversight; and corporate-level services associated with granting and maintaining access authorizations. Funding also provides for the conduct of corporate-level access authorization adjudications (i.e., performing case reviews, conducting evaluations, and preparing decision packages), and the operation and maintenance of corporate-level information technology systems used to manage access authorization data and processing.

Security investigations provides the funding for background investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and Office of Personnel Management for DOE Headquarters personnel whose access authorizations are managed through DOE Headquarters, while the responsible DOE program offices fund investigations for field personnel and Headquarters personnel whose access authorizations are managed through offices other than DOE Headquarters.

Headquarters Security Operations (\$29,320,000) The Headquarters security operations activity provides for the physical protection of all DOE Headquarters facilities and assets, including information, in the Washington, DC, area through the deployment of a protective force; the management and operation of countermeasures, alarms, and access control equipment; and the implementation and oversight of security-related programs. Funding for these activities provides a safe and secure work environment and assures line management, workers, and stakeholders that their activities within Headquarters facilities are effectively protected.

Program Direction (\$106,175,000) Program Direction provides for Federal staffing and mission support services to provide overall direction and execution of the HSS mission of providing the Department's health, safety, and security policy, technical assistance, analysis, corporate programs, safety and security training, independent oversight, and enforcement.

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Funding provides for salaries and benefits for 350 Federal full-time equivalent employees (a reduction of 26 from the FY 2012 level) with the technical expertise needed to carry out the HSS mission to provide: corporate-level leadership and strategic vision to coordinate and integrate health, safety, nuclear safety, and security policy development and technical assistance; safety- and security-related analysis; corporate safety and security programs; safety and security training; quality assurance programs; DOE complex-wide independent oversight; safety and security enforcement; executive protection; and effective cross-organizational coordination to resolve DNFSB-related technical and management issues to ensure worker and public health and safety. The Federal staff also manages the conduct of domestic and international health programs, implements physical and personnel security programs for DOE facilities in the National Capital Area, and, manages the U.S. Government-wide program to classify and declassify nuclear weapons-related technology and national security information.

Program Direction also provides for mission support activities for independent oversight and DNFSB liaison activities. HSS has analyzed its use of support services and has established specific criteria for using these services efficiently. While HSS has some unique Federal employee expertise, technical contractual support services continue to be a practical and cost-effective method for supporting the Federal staff as needed. The evolving need for world-class expertise in a multitude of disciplines can best be met through the use of contractors who can rapidly respond to the continually changing skill mix required to provide a surge pool of personnel with technical expertise in a wide range of safety and security disciplines.

Independent oversight activities are designed to ensure maximum value to the Department by identifying gaps and vulnerabilities in safety (worker, nuclear, and facility safety) and physical and cyber security programs and related performance. Independent oversight activities are tailored to the unique needs of each DOE program and site office, and consider relative risks and past performance in determining specific assessment activities. Safeguards and security and cyber security-related independent oversight activities help determine whether special nuclear materials, classified matter (parts and information), and information technology systems are adequately protected. Safety-related independent oversight activities help ensure that the workers and the public are adequately protected from the hazards associated with the Department's sites and operations, and minimize the occurrence of events that could negatively impact the Department's ability to perform its mission and achieve its goals. Independent oversight activities provide accurate and timely information and analysis regarding the effectiveness of the Department's safety and security programs and other functions of interest. Information is made available to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, congressional committees, and other stakeholders, such as unions and local public interest groups, to provide confidence that the Department's operations are performed in a safe and secure manner.

Independent oversight activities complement but do not replace DOE line management's responsibility for security and safety, as required by Departmental policies. Independent oversight functions include those that: (1) are required by a Federal law, Executive Order, or other mandate; and (2) need to be performed by an organization with independence from mission responsibilities to ensure that DOE safety and security programs are credible to internal and external stakeholders. As required by DOE Order 227.1, Independent Oversight Program,

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independent oversight activities are performed by personnel who are organizationally independent of the DOE program and site offices that implement policies and programs, and who can therefore objectively observe and report on those policies and programs as they relate to Departmental operations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, as the Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer, I am aware of the vital role and significant responsibilities assigned to HSS in support of the Department's scientific, energy, and national security missions. Those responsibilities include programs and efforts to ensure the health, safety, and security of DOE workers, surrounding communities, and National assets. In FY 2013, HSS will focus on:

- Developing cost-effective solutions for achieving best-in-class safety performance built upon a foundation of integrated safety management and enhanced through concepts such as safety culture, voluntary protection programs, and environmental management systems;
- Ensuring a graded approach to performance-based oversight of Departmental operations, such as nuclear facilities, through increased programmatic assistance, independent oversight, and enforcement presence at such facilities;
- Honoring the National and Departmental commitment to current and former workers through cost-effective implementation of the former worker medical screening program and support to DOL for implementation of EEOICPA;
- Enhancing the protection of national security assets entrusted to the Department through cost-effective security solutions that are consistent with successful mission accomplishment; and
- Continuing a corporate approach of openness and collaboration with management, workers, unions, and other interested parties to address complex health, safety, and security issues.

We are confident that with the continued support of DOE management, our stakeholders, and Congress, we can expand on recent accomplishments and contribute to efforts to further strengthen the Department's health, safety, and security posture, resulting in an increased assurance that DOE workers, the public, and our national security assets remain safe and secure.