

STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP

RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM MANAGER

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DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM

Since the moratorium on underground testing of nuclear weapons, the Department's responsibility to ensure the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile has been met through its Stockpile Stewardship Program. Stewardship of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile is one of the most complex, scientifically technical programs undertaken and the Department needs to ensure that all aspects of this mission-critical responsibility are fulfilled. Successful implementation of the Stockpile Stewardship Program is key to the Secretary of Energy's annual certification to the President that the nuclear stockpile is safe and reliable. Success is dependent upon unprecedented scientific tools to better understand the changes that occur as nuclear weapons age, enhance the surveillance capabilities for determining weapon reliability, and extend weapon lives.

In the past, deficiencies have been identified in surveillance tests of stockpiled nuclear weapons, a key component of the Stockpile Stewardship Program. Surveillance testing has been characterized as the first line of defense for maintaining high confidence in the stockpile and the link between stewardship activities and the annual certification process. Deficiencies had also been identified in conducting Significant Finding Investigations to determine the cause and impact of problems identified by surveillance tests, and to recommend corrective actions. While the Department has put into place processes to eliminate the backlog of surveillance tests and resolve deficiencies in Significant Finding Investigations, problems related to the Weapons Life Extension and Enhanced Test Readiness programs have been identified that, if left unresolved, could impact the Department's ability to certify the aging nuclear weapons stockpile.

PRIOR YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During FY 2003, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) developed and implemented a comprehensive significant finding investigation database. An enhanced version of the database is currently in testing. In addition, NNSA implemented a management plan to address and eliminate the testing backlog. NNSA also renewed safety studies of weapons prior to surveillance testing. The Department also began development of new improved cost accounting methods for items within the Weapons Life Extension Program and program plans for the Enhanced Test Readiness Program.

**DOE Management Control Program
Final December 2003**

PLANNED CRITICAL MILESTONES	Projected Completion Date		Responsible Office	Responsible Individual
	Previously Reported Date	Current Completion Date		
Implement program plans to achieve the Department's test readiness goal of 18 months	N/A	10/04	NNSA	Dr. Everet Beckner
Implement improved cost accounting methods for items within the Life Extension Program	N/A	09/05	NNSA	Dr. Everet Beckner
Finalize refurbishment plans for weapons within the Life Extension Program	N/A	09/05	NNSA	Dr. Everet Beckner
Implement resource loaded program plans for the Enhanced Test Readiness Program	N/A	09/05	NNSA	Dr. Everet Beckner

PROGRESS STATUS

As the stockpile continues to age, a stringent stockpile stewardship program becomes increasingly important. During FY 2003, the Department put into place the necessary processes to correct deficiencies in stockpile surveillance and testing. During FY 2004, the Department will implement improvements in the Weapons Life Extension and Enhanced Test Readiness programs to further strengthen stockpile stewardship.

PROPOSED CLOSURE DATE

FY 2005 with completion of planned milestones.