

## COVER SHEET

**Responsible Agency:** United States Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

**Title:** Draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility

**Contact:** For additional information on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), write or call:

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**Abstract:** DOE's NNSA is responsible for the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, including production readiness required to maintain that stockpile. Since 1989, DOE has been without the capability to produce certified plutonium pits, which are an essential component of nuclear weapons. NNSA, the Department of Defense, and Congress have highlighted the lack of long-term pit production capability as a national security issue requiring timely resolution. While a small interim capacity is currently being established at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), classified analyses indicate that long-term support of the nuclear stockpile, which is a cornerstone of U.S. national security policy, will require a long-term pit production capability.

Pursuant to *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.), and DOE Regulations Implementing *National Environmental Policy Act* (10 CFR Part 1021), NNSA has prepared a Supplement to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (hereafter, referred to as the MPF EIS) to support a Record of Decision (ROD) by the Secretary of Energy on: (1) whether to proceed with a Modern Pit Facility (MPF); and (2) if so, where to locate a MPF. This MPF EIS evaluates the environmental impacts associated with constructing a new MPF at the following sites: (1) Los Alamos Site, New Mexico; (2) Nevada Test Site; (3) Carlsbad Site, New Mexico; (4) Savannah River Site, South Carolina; and (5) Pantex Site, Texas. The MPF EIS also evaluates an upgrade to the plutonium pit manufacturing capabilities currently being established at Technical Area 55 (TA-55) at LANL, and the No Action Alternative of relying on the small interim capacity at LANL. The MPF EIS evaluates a range of pit production capabilities consistent with national security requirements. Additional NEPA analysis will be required for

the specific siting of such a facility should the decision be made that a MPF is required. For this MPF Draft EIS, constructing and operating a MPF is the preferred alternative. A preferred site for a MPF has not yet been determined, but will be identified in the Final EIS.

***Public Comments:*** In preparing this MPF Draft EIS, NNSA considered comments received during the public scoping period from September 20, 2002, through November 22, 2002. In addition, six public hearings were held to assist NNSA in defining the scope of the analysis. The first of these public hearings was held on October 8, 2002, in Amarillo, Texas. Hearings were also held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on October 10, 2002, in Washington, DC, on October 15, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 17, 2002, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, on October 24, 2002, and in North Augusta, South Carolina, on October 29, 2002. Comments made at these hearings, as well as each comment received by fax, e-mail, and mail during the scoping period, were considered in the preparation of the MPF Draft EIS. A summary of the comments is included in this draft.

The comment period for this MPF Draft EIS will be from June 6, 2003 to August 5, 2003. Public meetings will also be held during this 60-day comment period. The dates, times, and locations of these meetings will be announced in the *Federal Register* and in local newspapers. All comments received during the comment period will be considered by NNSA in the Final EIS.