



Nevada Site Office News

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Public Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Draft EIS for Modern Pit Facility

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office will host a public meeting to discuss issues and receive comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Modern Pit Facility. The meeting is scheduled from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 2, 2003, at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Moyer Student Union, Room 201, 4504 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas.

The draft EIS for the Modern Pit Facility (MPF) evaluates reasonable alternatives for manufacturing plutonium pits to support the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. It will provide a basis for Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to make a record of decision on or before April 2004 on whether to proceed with a MPF, and if so, where to locate the facility.

The five locations for a MPF are evaluated in the draft EIS: (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 draft EIS also evaluates the alternative of upgrading the existing plutonium fabrication facility at Los Alamos, and a "no action" alternative of not proceeding with a MPF. The preferred alternative in this draft EIS is to construct and operate a MPF. A preferred site for the MPF will be identified in the final EIS.

NNSA is inviting comments related to the draft EIS. Public comments should be submitted within 60 days and can be mailed to the MPF EIS Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585. Comments may also be faxed to 202-586-5324, or submitted via the MPF EIS web page (<http://www.mpfeis.com/>).

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