



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050



The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 21 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In an April 8, 2013, letter to your office, the Department of Defense (DoD) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) detailed a proposed path forward to sustain the Nation's pit production capability in light of the deferral of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement–Nuclear Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Our response outlined plans for the NNSA request for \$120 million in reprogrammed FY 2012 funds and included a commitment to analyze several options to meet the Nation's plutonium needs.

The NNSA, with assistance from the DoD Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE), completed the initial 60-day analysis of options and briefed the Nuclear Weapons Council (NWC) on May 20, 2013. Based on this initial analysis, the "modular" concept offers potential for a sequenced and affordable approach to achieving needed plutonium capabilities. The NWC endorsed continued analysis on the modular concept, recognizing that further design details and costs must also be examined and compared with other feasible alternatives. In the next phase of this study, NNSA, with DoD/CAPE assistance, will assess the capabilities, costs, and risks associated with this approach in order to better inform an NWC decision on a plutonium strategy.

We seek your approval of NNSA's \$120 million reprogramming request to carry out this next phase in time to inform the President's budget request for FY 2015 and to begin efforts to achieve a capability to produce 30 pits per year by 2021 at existing facilities (common to all options under review). Your continued support is appreciated, and we look forward to informing Congress about the results of our ongoing analysis.

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Frank Kendall
Chairman

cc:
The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050



The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JUN 21 2013

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Frank Kendall
Chairman

cc:
The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050



The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

JUN 21 2013

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Frank Kendall
Chairman

cc:
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NUCLEAR WEAPONS COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050



The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

JUN 21 2013

Dear Madam Chairman:

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Frank Kendall
Chairman

cc:
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member

COORDINATION

SUBJECT: Plutonium Business Case Analysis Letter

NWC Members

USD Policy	Dr. Jim Miller	June 15, 2013 (concur)
CDRUSSTRATCOM	General Robert Kehler	June 3, 2013 (concur)
NNSA Administrator	Ms. Neile Miller	May 30, 2013 (concur)
VCJCS	ADM James Winnefeld	June 5, 2013 (concur)

DoD Coordination

General Counsel	Mr. Charles Allen	June 3, 2013 (concur)
Legislative Affairs	Mr. Joseph Simonelli and Mr. Edward Devinney	June 4, 2013 (concur)
CAPE	Dr. Scott Comes	June 7, 2013 (concur)
ARA	Dr. Nancy Spruill	June 6, 2013 (concur)



UNCLASSIFIED SYSTEM

OUSD(AT&L) Correspondence Cover Sheet

Tasked Org: OASD(NCB/NM) **Action Type:** For USD Signature **Action Number:** USA003579-13 **Suspense Date:**

Subject:
Plutonium Strategy Business Case Analysis Findings Congressional Letter

	Initials	Date	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S USD:		_____	Signed 21 Jun 13
<input type="checkbox"/> ASD(LMR) USD DA:	_____	_____	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A USD SA:		6/20	✓ Edits to 6/19
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A USD MA:		6/20	✓ Edits TAB A 6/18
<input type="checkbox"/> ASD(LMR) USD DA MA:	_____	_____	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A DDES:		6/18	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Editor:		6/18	

Notes:

Disposition Instructions:

THIS TASK RESIDES ON THE **NIPRNET** VERSION OF SACCP.