



Department of Energy
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



May 10, 2018



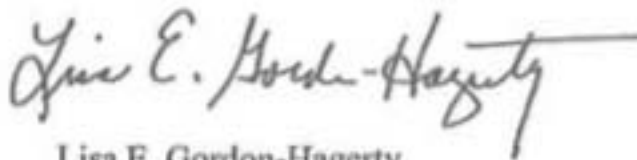
Pursuant to Section 3141 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018* (Public Law 115-91), the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) is providing Congress with the Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) that was conducted in accordance with DOE's project management requirements, the Engineering Assessment, and the Workforce Analysis reports produced to inform the necessary recapitalization of NNSA's plutonium pit production capabilities.

The recommended alternative outlined below is consistent with the direction in the 2018 *Nuclear Posture Review* to ensure an "effective, responsive, and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure" capable of adjusting to meet requirements and has been certified by the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council. NNSA's recommended alternative is to repurpose the Savannah River Site's Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility to produce 50 war reserve plutonium pits per year (PPY) in 2030. Concurrently, NNSA will continue to invest in Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to produce an enduring 30 war reserve PPY in 2026. As practicable, NNSA will assess opportunities for LANL to produce above that quantity.

NNSA's recommended alternative is the optimal path forward for meeting requirements to produce 80 war reserve PPY in 2030 and managing the risks associated with increasing pit production while maintaining existing plutonium operations. LANL will remain the Nation's plutonium center of excellence as we work to ensure a resilient and responsive infrastructure for pit production for decades to come.

With the continued support of Congress, I am confident in the ability of the nuclear security enterprise to meet our pit production requirements. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important national security matter. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nora Khalil, Associate Administrator for External Affairs, at 202-586-7332.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Lisa E. Gordon-Hagerty

