

Plans for a New U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex Q & A

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON



NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Q: What is “Complex Transformation”?

A: Complex Transformation is the Bush Administration’s plan to overhaul the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex. The plan includes new bomb plant facilities that would enable the mass-production of nuclear weapons for the first time in two decades. Complex Transformation would also consolidate weapon-grade nuclear materials (uranium and plutonium) into fewer locations and reducing the Complex footprint. Detailed information can be found at www.fcnl.org/nuclear

Q: What happened to Complex 2030?

A: Complex Transformation supersedes Complex 2030. In October 2006 the Energy Department introduced Complex 2030, which contained many similar and some major differences to Complex Transformation. The bomb plant proposed as part of Complex 2030 was much larger than the one proposed by Complex Transformation, and was rejected by Congress in 2007. Complex Transformation was released, partially as a response to congressional rejection to Complex 2030, in January 2008. The U.S. Energy Department is a federal agency that maintains the Nuclear Weapons Complex.

Q: What is FCNL’s position on Complex Transformation?

A: Complex Transformation is a comprehensive plan to modernize and consolidate the entire Nuclear Weapons Complex. There are many different components to the plan—some that FCNL support and others that we do not. FCNL supports consolidating weapon-grade nuclear materials into fewer locations and reducing the Complex footprint. FCNL opposes increasing nuclear weapon production capacity by building new bomb plant facilities.

April 2008

Q: What is the “new bomb plant” in the Complex Transformation plan?

A: Complex Transformation proposes expanding and building new nuclear bomb plant facilities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, located northwest of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A major planned building, which would allow for expanded warhead production, has been given the name Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement facility (CMRR) and would cost over \$2 billion. (This is the key facility that FCNL will focus on blocking). Together the new and updated facilities would have the annual capacity to build up to 80 plutonium pits, the “triggers” of new nuclear warheads. Thus, the proposed bomb plant facilities would enable a sharp increase in U.S nuclear weapons production capacity. In fact, the United States has built only a handful of pits since 1989, when the Rocky Flats Plant outside Boulder, Colorado closed.

Q: Didn't we already defeat the “new nuclear bomb plant”?

A: Yes! In fact, arms control advocates have repeatedly stopped the administration from building nuclear new bombs plant of varying sizes over the years. The bomb plant that was proposed as part of Complex 2030 was officially called the Consolidated Plutonium Center, and would have been able to produce 125 to 200 nuclear warheads per year. Congress rejected that plant in 2007.

The latest bomb plant facility, proposed as part of Complex Transformation, is officially called the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement facility (CMRR), and would help enable the production of up to 80 warheads per year at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Q: How can you oppose the new bomb plant facilities?

A: Express your views on new nuclear weapons directly to the federal government. The Energy Department (DOE) is required to consider your recommendations on Complex Transformation and the proposed CMRR bomb plant facility through public hearings and comments. **The deadline to submit public comments has been extended. The DOE will now accept comments through April 30, 2008.**

Submit comments by email to: ComplexTransformation@nnsa.doe.gov

Submit comments by mail to:

Mr. Theodore Wyka
Office of Transformation, NA-10.1
U.S. Department of Energy/NNSA
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

April 2008