



that could not be returned to nuclear weapons.

According to the NNSA, the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program EIS satisfies the administration's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as it seeks to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide by dispositioning surplus U.S. plutonium in a safe and secure manner. Disposing of the plutonium will also help the NNSA meet its legal obligations under the 1998 agreement with Russia.

The agency's disposal strategy includes converting pit and nonpit plutonium to oxide, blending the oxidized plutonium with an adulterant, compressing it, encasing it in two containers, then overpacking and disposing of the resulting contact-handled transuranic waste underground at WIPP. According to the NNSA, the approach would require new, modified, or existing capabilities at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the Pantex Plant in Texas, and WIPP.

Under a no-action alternative, up to 7.1 metric tons of nonpit plutonium would be processed at either LANL or SRS. If the processing occurs at LANL, then the resulting plutonium oxide would be transported to SRS. If it occurs at SRS, then the resulting material would remain there. In both cases, the processed material would be diluted, characterized, packaged, and transported as contact-handled transuranic defense waste to the WIPP facility for disposal.

The NNSA was to publish a record of decision for the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program in the *Federal Register* after February 20, 2024.

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