

## Fact Sheet

### **NNSA issues Preliminary Notice of Violation to National Security Technologies, LLC, for Nuclear Safety Violations**

On August 22, 2011, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) for violations of Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear safety regulations. NSTec is the operating contractor of NNSA's Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The PNOV cites four violations of DOE regulations governing nuclear safety management. The violations are associated with quality assurance (QA) related deficiencies in the inspection and installation of penetration fire seals and other components at the Criticality Experiments Facility (CEF) and the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) at NNSS.

NNSA cited NSTec for failures to comply with 10 C.F.R. Part 830, *Nuclear Safety Management*. The violations include: (1) failure to effectively identify, control, and prevent recurrence of quality problems, (2) failure to follow procedures and ensure that procedures were adequate, (3) failure to inspect using established acceptance and performance criteria, and (4) failure to fully develop technical safety requirements for penetration fire seals and failure to seal DAF building penetrations. NNSA is issuing a PNOV to NSTec with four Severity Level II violations with a total proposed civil penalty of \$178,750.

NNSA acknowledges that, once the systemic issues were recognized, NSTec took comprehensive actions to fully examine the issues and institute comprehensive corrective actions. NSTec recognized that the extent-of-condition review was deficient, and performed a second root cause analysis and extent-of-condition review to thoroughly investigate and resolve those deficiencies.

NNSA recognizes NSTec's commitment to improvement, as presented during the enforcement conference. It is clear that NSTec understands the underlying cultural issues will require a continuous, disciplined effort to address. NNSA believes that NSTec senior management is committed and involved, as evidenced by the establishment of the Executive Safety Review Board. NNSA commends NSTec for the development of its Formality of Operations Improvement Plan, and the stated goal to become a premier nuclear operations site. NSTec has also created a new Nuclear Operations Directorate, to focus resources on nuclear issues, and established a Quality Systems Assurance Division to integrate quality functions. NSTec has developed a sampling plan for the destructive evaluation of the penetration fire seals at the CEF and DAF, which uses a statistically valid approach to determine the status of the installed seals.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the Internet at [www.hss.doe.gov/enforce](http://www.hss.doe.gov/enforce).

The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 authorizes DOE to impose civil penalties on its contractors for violations of its nuclear safety requirements. DOE's Enforcement Program encourages Departmental contractors to identify and correct nuclear safety deficiencies at an early stage before they contribute to or result in more serious events.