

MONITOR

NUCLEAR WEAPONS & MATERIALS

U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration ♦ Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy
...plus International Nonproliferation Initiatives (State, DoD, G-8, IAEA) ♦ Uranium Enrichment

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— INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS —

The Obama Administration is planning to delay the procurement of replacements for the Navy’s nuclear-capable SSBN(X) Ohio-class submarine, according to a preview of the Pentagon’s Fiscal Year 2013 budget unveiled this week that largely avoids major cuts to the nation’s nuclear deterrent. 2

The decision by the NNSA and DOE’s Office of Environmental Management not to release Performance Evaluation Review data has drawn the attention of Congress, and Hill staffers expect the issue to receive increased scrutiny over the next year. 3

Lawyers for laid off Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees will argue that the lab’s claim of a \$280 million shortfall that led to the first round of forced layoffs in three decades at the institution was overstated when the age discrimination trial involving the first set of former employees begins next month. 4

Ellen Tauscher will leave her post as the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security early next month, but will remain with the Department as an advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. 5

WSI, DOE’s Oak Ridge security contractor, confirmed that a security supervisor resigned Jan. 26 after he admitted violating multiple rules—including sleeping on the job and using a personal cell phone while on duty. 6

As the Obama Administration considers potentially moving toward a smaller nuclear force, it should begin planning now to scale back its efforts to modernize the nation’s nuclear deterrent rather than waiting for budget realities to dictate changes. 7

The Conference on Disarmament opened its first session of 2012 amid growing cries from the international community and the United States to break a deadlock that has prevented progress on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty and has kept the Geneva negotiating body stalemated since 2009. 8

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