

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 —

House appropriators were largely supportive of the Obama Administration's huge increase in funding for the NNSA last week, though several registered disappointment that the request still has not been accompanied by a broad strategy on nuclear weapons policy. 2

The Obama Administration's widely praised Fiscal Year 2011 nuclear weapons budget includes a \$624 million increase for the NNSA's weapons program, but it doesn't go far enough, according to one House Republican. . . . 3

After getting the green light to proceed on two major construction projects earlier this year, the NNSA is planning to bring in outside experts to review the estimated cost of the high-profile facilities before construction officially begins. 4

B&W Pantex General Manager Greg Meyer left the NNSA contractor last week to take a senior position in Fluor's Washington office. 6

Sen. Bob Bennett is planning to have the Government Accountability Office look into how the DOE manages contractor pension costs. 6

The House Ethics Committee has cleared Rep. Peter Visclosky of charges that he delivered earmarks to clients in exchange for campaign donations, but the Indiana Democrat still has not returned to chair the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. 7

DOE needs to move quickly to resolve career and longevity issues faced by the protective force officers that guard the nation's nuclear weapons sites or it could face a strike at one or more facilities. 8

As the Obama Administration plans upgrades to the NNSA's weapons complex, it should consider the implications that a world free of nuclear weapons might have on several high-profile capital construction projects, designing the facilities with an eye toward the potential need for international inspections into the future. 9

At the Weapons Labs/DOE Sites 12

Wrap Up 13

Calendar 14