

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Operating Principles

Our mission is vital and urgent – we constantly focus on mission outcomes.

- US nuclear security is the fundamental mission of the NNSA and its laboratories, plants, and test site.
- Mission managers bear responsibility for achieving mission outcomes.
- Support managers provide technical assistance and support to enable mission delivery.
- Our activities reflect a mission-focused, high performing, high reliability enterprise consistently delivering on its commitments and addressing national needs.
- We constantly strive to drive innovation and reduce barriers to effectively and collaboratively accomplish our mission.

Science and technology lie at the heart of our mission.

- The NNSA and its laboratories, plants, and test site are resources to organizations in the US Government with national security missions.
- We manage our laboratories, production, and other facilities in a manner that sustains and leverages their formidable technical capabilities in response to the ever-expanding challenges to our Nation's security.
- The NNSA national laboratories' mission is to provide premier science and technology support for the US national security mission.

We succeed only through teamwork, innovation and continuous improvement.

- The long-term strategic future of the National Security Enterprise is a shared responsibility of Federal and contractor staff and leadership and requires a strong partnership and trust.
- Individual and contract performance evaluations reflect contributions to mission outcomes.
- We treat our people as our greatest asset.
- All functions within NNSA are periodically evaluated in relation to mission enablement.

We pursue our mission in a manner that is safe, secure, legally and ethically sound, and fiscally and environmentally responsible.

- The Administrator is ultimately responsible for ensuring the quality of the product/outcome; security of operations; the safety and health of employees and the public; and the protection of the environment.
- Mission and functional managers at the Federal and contractor level bear full responsibility for achieving assigned objectives in a manner that is safe, environmentally responsible, secure, legally and ethically sound, and fiscally responsible.

We manage risk across program objectives and operational performance to fulfill our mission.

- Decision-makers balance programmatic and operational risks to accomplish mission requirements and meet national security needs.
- Authorities are aligned to accountability and are assigned to decision-makers that are closest to the work.
- Certain critical decisions are made at the highest levels of NNSA due to a unique risk or as driven by law, Federal regulations, or to balance risks and resources across the nuclear security enterprise.

We apply validated standards and rely on rigorous peer reviews.

- Wherever possible and warranted, NNSA executes work in accordance with validated standards; where these standards do not apply or are inadequate, work processes are developed.
- Contractors are expected to employ best management practices.
- We constantly strive to reduce or eliminate requirements for transactional oversight where not required by statute or the Federal Acquisition Regulations.



Thomas P. D'Agostino
Administrator