



E C O S

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Asheville, North Carolina

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Arlington, Virginia

As certified by
Ben Grumbles
Executive Director

CLEANUP BUDGETS FOR THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

WHEREAS, the nation's nuclear weapons production and research and development activities, conducted largely between the 1940s and 1980s, have left a legacy of hazardous, radiological, and mixed wastes scattered across sites widely referred to as the "nuclear weapons complex" (the complex); and

WHEREAS, proper cleanup of the complex is critical to protecting human health and to ensuring that damages to natural resources are mitigated; and

WHEREAS, the complex formerly consisted of more than 100 sites in 33 states, thereby comprising one of the largest environmental cleanup operations undertaken in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, at least 11 states currently host active cleanup operations spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM), and additional states have sites being addressed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); and

WHEREAS, state environmental agencies are regulators with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. DOE, and the Corps, and may oversee cleanup operations within the complex as established by Federal Facility Agreements, permits, state and federal law, and consent orders; and

WHEREAS, some sites within the complex, including the Ohio Fernald and Colorado Rocky Flats sites, benefited from accelerated cleanups that generated cost savings from reduced future maintenance costs that were not redirected toward other site cleanups within the complex; and

WHEREAS, completed cleanups have shrunk the footprint and overall size and presence of the nuclear weapons complex within the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these successes, continued cleanup of the complex remains a priority issue for the states; and

WHEREAS, stable funding leads to increased efficiencies in cleanup cost and schedule for U.S. DOE, the Corps, and the states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES (ECOS):

Strongly supports continued environmental cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex;

Recommends that U.S. DOE continue and expedite cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex and maintain a strong forum for communication and planning with state oversight officials via ECOS;

Urges U.S. DOE and Corps officials to request annual budgets for EM and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), as well as for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the U.S. DOE Office of Legacy Management (LM), to ensure that adequate funds are provided to all sites to achieve cleanup milestones on schedule, and without narrowed scope, as required by FFAs, permits, state and federal laws, and consent orders;

Urges the U.S. Congress to appropriate the levels of funding necessary to ensure EM, FUSRAP, NNSA, and LM annual budgets are fully funded and fully compliant; and

Urges U.S. DOE and the Corps to establish mechanisms whereby any cost savings that result from accelerated cleanups are recouped and redirected toward funding other site cleanups within the nuclear weapons complex.