



# Complex 2030

## *The New Nuclear Weapons Complex*

The Bush administration has developed a \$150 billion plan to rebuild the nation's nuclear weapons capabilities and to develop the first new nuclear warhead in over two decades. This new plan, called "Complex 2030" for the date by which the program would be completed, is a reversal of the goals of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The underlying premise of international efforts to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction is that the U.S. and other nuclear weapons states will also work to reduce their own stockpiles. Building the next generation of nuclear weapons could reignite the arms race and pose an increased threat to our planet. The new plan also threatens U.S. and international security by undermining calls for other countries such as Iran and North Korea to halt efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

### **What is the U.S.'s Nuclear Weapons Complex?**

The Nuclear Weapons Complex is a network of facilities that develop and maintain the United States' nuclear weapons. The Complex is administered by a semi-autonomous agency inside the Energy Department called the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The Complex is made up of facilities scattered across the country at eight major sites with missions as diverse as laboratory work to explosives testing to nuclear weapon component manufacturing. NNSA employees working in the Complex range from factory workers to nuclear physicists. Currently, the Nuclear Weapons Complex costs taxpayers over \$6 billion a year.

### **What is "Complex 2030?"**

Complex 2030 is the name given to the administration's ambitious plan to rebuild and reorganize the Nuclear Weapons Complex by the year 2030. A key element of



A nuclear test explosion at the Nevada Test Site in 1953.  
Photo from the U.S. Government.

the plan is the construction of a new nuclear weapons production facility. In addition, Complex 2030 proposes consolidating weapons-grade nuclear materials into fewer locations.

The planned new nuclear weapons production facility, or "Consolidated Plutonium Center" (CPC), would have the annual capacity to build 125 to 200 plutonium pits, an essential component of new nuclear warheads. The U.S. has only built a handful of pits since the closure of the Rocky Flats plant outside of Boulder, CO, in 1989. The proposed plant would enable a sharp increase in the weapon production capacity of the Nuclear Weapons Complex. As NNSA administrator Thomas D'Agostino told a congressional committee in April 2006, Complex 2030 is the vehicle for the department's goal of giving the U.S. a "level of capability comparable to what we had during the Cold War."

NNSA calculates that to put Complex 2030 into full operation by the year 2030 would cost taxpayers over \$150 billion. FCNL estimates that the new pit facility alone would account for over \$10 billion of that price tag.



## Complex 2030 Undermines International Security

### INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS

The international community has worked for decades to construct the nuclear nonproliferation regime that has helped to prevent nuclear war. The Complex 2030 proposal undermines these structures and agreements that were created to reduce the nuclear danger. At a time when the U.S. government is demanding other countries adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and renounce nuclear weapons, the U.S. government is not meeting its own obligations to pursue disarmament.

While the U.S. government is pressing Iran and North Korea to abandon their nuclear weapons programs, it is planning to build up its own nuclear arsenal. This is an untenable and morally wrong policy of “do as I say, and not as I do.” As Rep. Ed Markey (MA) noted, “America cannot preach nuclear temperance from a barstool.”

In signing the NPT, the United States committed to working toward the goal of nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the treaty. The Complex 2030 proposal is a step in the opposite direction. Complex 2030 would indefinitely sustain this country’s ability to build *new* nuclear weapons and would be contrary to the Article VI provision.

### COMPLEX 2030 TO PROMOTE U.S. NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT?

The administration claims that Complex 2030 is needed to *reduce* the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, when in fact, it will *increase* the capacity to build new nuclear weapons. NNSA argues that by creating a new pit facility, it will feel confident in its ability to produce new nuclear weapons when needed, and can downsize the existing stockpile. However, the U.S. government already has the obligation and capability to dismantle its nuclear warheads *without* the construction of a new pit facility that would enable increased warhead production.

### EXISTING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS

Under the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT) signed with Russia in 2002, the United States is committed to reducing its nuclear weapons arsenal to between 1,700 and 2,200 deployed strategic warheads by the end of 2012. The Complex 2030 plan is *not* necessary for complying with SORT. Nuclear arms reductions can be implemented irrespective of the outcome of Complex 2030. FCNL agrees with NNSA’s stated goal of stockpile reduction, but not the concept of a new nuclear complex that produces new nuclear weapons to reach that goal.

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## Where Are We Now and What Can I Do?

The administration is seeking funds for Complex 2030 for the first time in its fiscal year 2008 (FY08) budget request. The Energy Department (DOE) has concealed the cost of initial design and research for Complex 2030 in multiple existing program accounts. FCNL will urge Congress to require DOE to provide specific funding numbers for Complex 2030. The amount of money for the Complex will increase significantly in future years as funds are requested for engineering and construction.

Concerned citizens have played a central role in the past in curbing the nuclear arms race and preventing nuclear war. A similar movement is needed today. Here is what you can do:

- Communicate with your members of Congress. Urge them to eliminate funding for Complex 2030 and the new pit facility in the FY08 budget. Funding could be included in two annual budget bills: the military authorization bill and the energy and water appropriations bill. The members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, and the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees will play a key role in decisions on the future of Complex 2030. If your representative or senators sit on these committees, it is particularly important that they know of your concerns about Complex 2030.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper explaining the dangers of rebuilding the Nuclear Weapons Complex and producing new nuclear weapons.
- Educate your friends and family. Numbers do make a difference, and legislators will be more inclined to vote your way if they feel that a groundswell of support exists for a particular measure or issue. Help create that momentum by educating your community.

### Let FCNL help you take action to stop Complex 2030

FCNL has many resources to assist you. If you do not have web access, we can mail written material to you.

Visit FCNL’s website at [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org) to view congressional actions, background information, advocate letters and statements, and links to other resources. The web site includes information on topics such as new weapons development, nonproliferation initiatives, nuclear weapons use policy, and weapons testing. Documents on Complex 2030 can also be found at [StoptheBombPlant.org](http://StoptheBombPlant.org).

