

February 6, 2008

CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

TNP-28

DISPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SURPLUS HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM (≥ 20 PERCENT ^{235}U)

I. Classification Guides Affected:

No classification guides or bulletins are affected by this classification bulletin. This bulletin will be incorporated into Section 630 of CG-MD-1, *DOE Classification Guide for the Fissile Materials Disposition Program*, dated August 1, 1996.

II. Background:

In November 2005, the Secretary of Energy declared an additional 200 metric tons of highly enriched uranium (HEU) (≥ 20 percent ^{235}U) to be surplus. The B&W Y-12 National Security Complex is preparing to disposition this material. Questions have been raised about the classification of information regarding the specific materials involved and the various disposition paths.

III. Topical Guidance:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Classification</u>
100 Total quantity of HEU (i.e., 200 metric tons [MT]); (released by Secretary of Energy in November 5, 2005, Press Release.)	U

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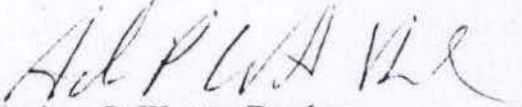
~~May be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), exemption number and category: 2, Circumvention of Statute. Department of Energy review required before public release.~~

~~Name/Org: Kang/Kun Wu, HS-92~~

~~Date: 02/06/08~~

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- 200 Forms of HEU(i.e., metal, oxides, unirradiated reactor fuel, irradiated reactor fuel, miscellaneous) U
- 300 Disposition paths and quantities (i.e., 160 MT for Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; 20 MT for research and test reactors; and 20 MT for blend down to low enriched uranium; released by Secretary of Energy in November 5, 2005, Press Release.) U


Andrew P. Weston-Dawkes
Director
Office of Classification
Office of Health, Safety and Security

November 7, 2005

DOE to Remove 200 Metric Tons of Highly Enriched Uranium from U.S. Nuclear Weapons Stockpile
Will Be Redirected to Naval Reactors, Down-blended or Used for Space Programs

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today announced that the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will remove up to 200 metric tons (MT) of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU), in the coming decades, from further use as fissile material in U.S. nuclear weapons and prepare this material for other uses. Secretary Bodman made this announcement while addressing the 2005 Carnegie International Nonproliferation Conference in Washington, DC.

The decision addresses future use of HEU that becomes available from nuclear weapons dismantlements and from significant reductions in the nuclear weapons stockpile as directed by President Bush in May 2004. The project represents the largest amount of special nuclear material to be removed from the stockpile in the history of the nuclear weapons program.

"The President's decision to reduce the nuclear weapons stockpile by nearly half—to the smallest size since the Eisenhower administration—enables us to dispose of a significant amount of weapons-grade uranium," Secretary Bodman said. "This is material that will never again be a part of a nuclear weapon."

- DOE will dispose of the additional HEU the following ways:
- *About 160 MT will be provided for use in naval ship power propulsion, postponing the need for construction of a new uranium high-enrichment facility for at least 50 years.
 - *About 20 MT will be down-blended to low enriched uranium (LEU) for eventual use in civilian nuclear power reactors, research reactors or related research. Down-blending this material will eliminate its potential usefulness to terrorists.
 - *Approximately 20 MT will be reserved for space and research reactors that currently use HEU, pending development of fuels that would enable the conversion to LEU fuel cores.

HEU is stored at NNSA's Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN. Bodman noted that DOE is expediting construction of a facility that will permit the consolidation of all HEU at Y-12 in a modern, highly secure building. Although DOE examined options to down-blend additional material to improve its security, it

concluded that this new facility would be available before down-blending could be accomplished. Early down-blending, therefore, would add costs without improving security.

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