

# Kansas City and the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex

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Please visit [www.nukewatch.org](http://www.nukewatch.org) for this presentation and much more on the Kansas City Plant, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, nuclear weapons policies and the research and production complex.

## The Products



**NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD BOMB:** B61 bombs are the oldest weapons in the nuclear stockpile and an integral part of the nation's strategic defense.



# The Results

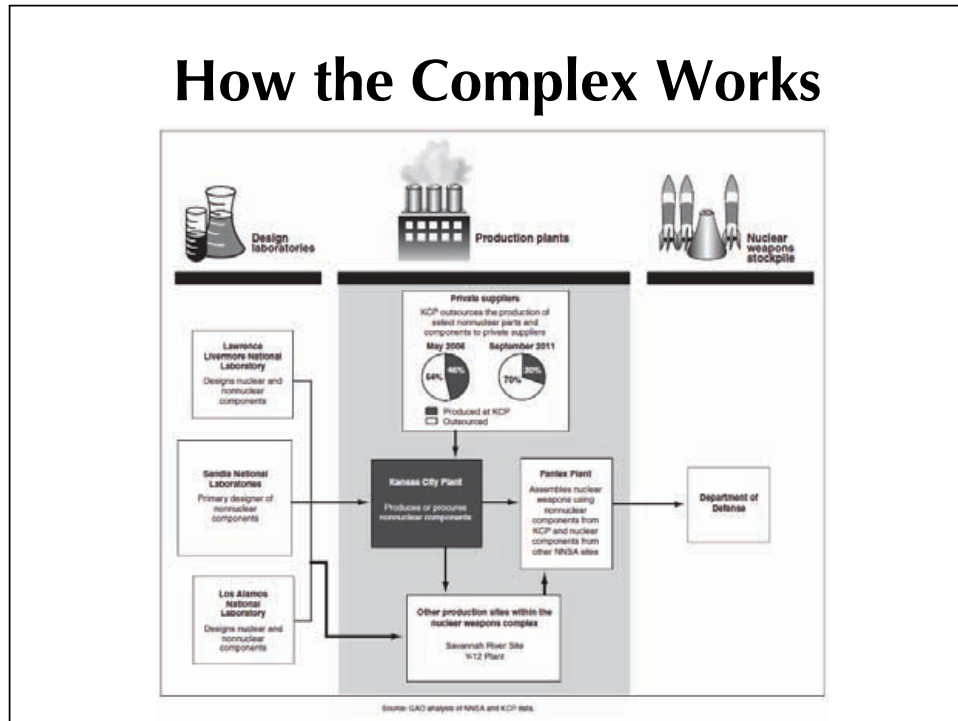


Badger, Nevada Test Site,  
April 15, 1953,  
23 kilotons



Crossroads-Baker,  
Bikini Atoll,  
July 23, 1946,  
23 kilotons





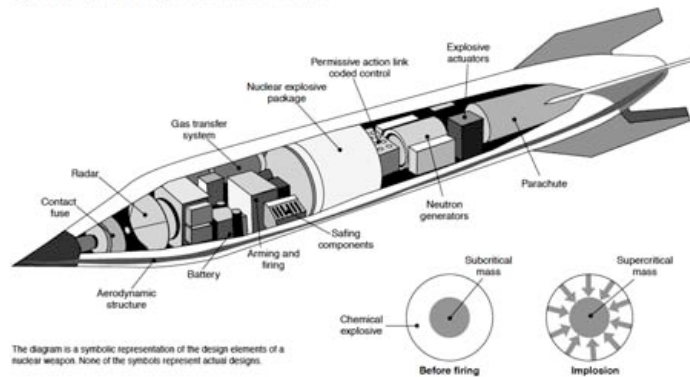
## The Cost of Nuclear Weapons

- The U. S. Dept. of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) spends more than \$6 billion annually on nuclear weapons research and production.
- \$465 million is slated for nuclear weapons components production at the Kansas City Plant in FY 2010.
- Defense Dept. spends an estimated \$30 billion annually on force structure and delivery systems.
- In all, the U.S. has spent an estimated \$5.8 trillion on nuclear weapons, or \$21,000 per living American.

(Source: *Cost of U.S. Nuclear Weapons*, Steve Schwartz, October 2008)

## What is a Nuclear Weapon Made Of?

Figure 6: Simplified Drawing of a Modern Nuclear Weapon



Source: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management, DOE, p. 9-4.

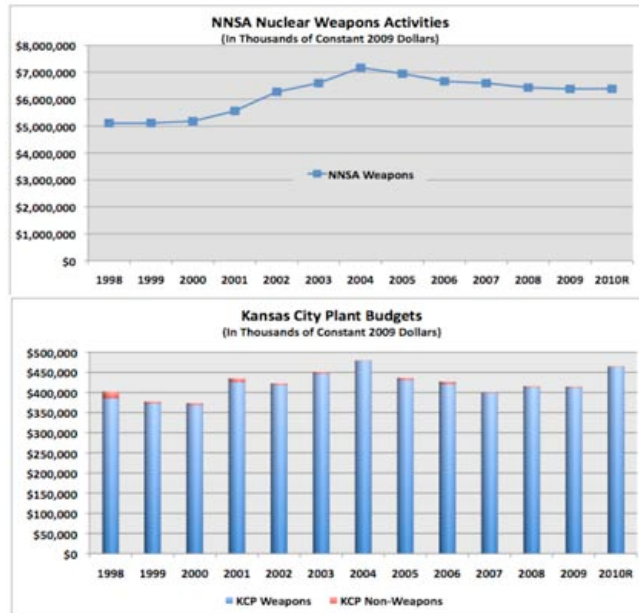
KCP specializes in nonnuclear components, such as firing and arming systems, radars, guidance systems, reservoirs for tritium, setting foams and adhesives.

## KCP is NNSA's Most Productive Facility



KCP produces and/or procures 100,000 parts annually, that is 85% of all components that go into a nuclear warhead by both type and quantity.

## Nuclear Weapons Spending and KCP



- More than 98% of the budget for the Kansas City Plant is nuclear weapons-related.

- The yearly totals follow fluctuations in the overall NNSA budget (look closely to see non-weapons \$!). Sources: NNSA Congressional Budget requests.

- KCP officials state that the Plant receives another ~\$130 million annually in “Work for Others”, but virtually all of that is for nuclear weapons as well.

## Extending the Lifetimes of Nuclear Weapons



- KCP produces components for all of nuclear warhead types depicted above.
- Due to Life Extension Programs (LEPs), KCP is currently having its heaviest workload in 20 years.
- LEPs are projected to extend a weapon’s usable life by 30 to 60 years

## W76 LEP Creates a Weapon with New Military Characteristics

New **Arming Fusing & Firing** system being produced now at the Kansas City Plant is believed to endow the warhead with a selectable height of burst.

Refurbished W76s are being transformed from a countervalue weapon of deterrence (“city buster”) into a counterforce weapon (“hard target killer”).

This directly contradicts repeated statements by senior U.S. Government officials that military characteristics won’t be changed and that “new” nuclear weapons will not be created.

## Relocating the Plant



NNSA is aggressively planning to build a new 660 million dollar, 1.5 million square foot plant in the Kansas City area.

## An “Environmental Assessment” Was Completed for the New Plant

1. The General Services Administration (GSA) distributed a solicitation for bids to potential developers before starting the EA process. *Predetermination?*
2. The EA failed to address **cleanup** and the future of the old plant.
3. Of the EA's six alternatives, the new Plant results in the **greatest job loss**, but still has the support of local politicians.

## Kansas City Will Own a Federal Nuclear Weapons Plant

“In the interest of the public health, safety, morals or welfare of the residents,” a soybean field was declared blighted for municipal tax breaks for private developers.

Quote from *Missouri Revised Statutes, Industrial Development, Section 100.320, August 28, 2007.*



“A view to the southwest in the central portion of the redevelopment area.”

(Photograph No. 4, Blight Study, May 20, 2008)

## **Kansas City Will Own a Federal Nuclear Weapons Plant**

Kansas City will own a new federal nuclear weapons production plant. What about schools, hospitals? What about clean up and green jobs at the old Plant?

Private development of a nuclear weapons plant circumvents congressional oversight.

It also costs taxpayers more - - \$1.2 billion in lease and maintenance payments over 20 years for a \$660 million building, after which the government still doesn't own it.

## **A New Kansas City Plant Is Not Needed**

- The workload of the new Plant was originally predicated on new-design Reliable Replacement Warheads (RRWs) and massive Life Extension Programs.
- Congress and the President have rejected RRWs.



## A New Kansas City Plant Is Not Needed

President Obama has declared a nuclear weapons-free world to be a long-term national security goal.

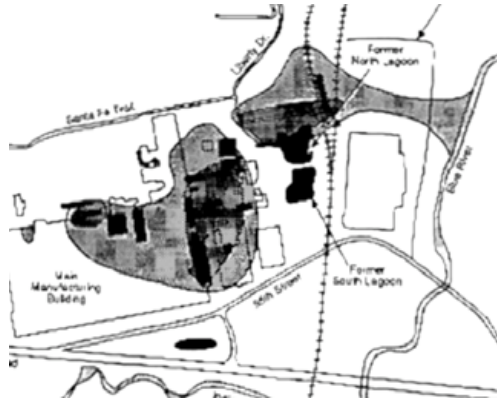
Groundbreaking for the new KCP will likely occur just before the May 2010 NonProliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations with over 180 countries.



## False Economy/ Extra Expense?

- NNSA claims the new Plant will result in cost savings of \$100 million per year.
- Of that, \$37 million will administratively result from less stringent security requirements because KCP doesn't have weapons-grade nuclear material. (Source: Govt. Accountability Office Report GAO-10-115, p. 5.) ***You don't need a new Plant for that!!***
- On top of that, NNSA is asking for an additional \$79 million for the next five years for "transition" to the new Plant.

## Where's the Money for Cleanup?



Map of contamination plumes in groundwater at KCP

-<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Remedy/Kansas/ksplnt02.html>

- NNSA spends \$3.7 million annually to pump and treat groundwater contamination (solvents and PCBs).

- Cost for demo and clean up of existing contamination has been estimated as high as \$287 million.

(Source: Relocation of Non-Nuclear Production to an Alternate Location Business Case, NNSA, October 2007, p. 17)

- What federal agency will be responsible for final cleanup of the old plant?

## Please Get Active



### Why Bother? Because:

- The nuclear weaponeers want to build up their bomb production complex, not clean it up. But the nuclear weapons industry is (hopefully) a dying business.
- Real security: clean up to protect public health and the environment; prioritization of funds for the greatest public good (schools, hospitals, infrastructure); local green, sustainable economic development; nuclear weapons nonproliferation leading to abolition
- Hassle your congressional delegation, make your opinions known, write letters to the editor, support your local organizations, etc.
- Democracy is a muscle. Use it or lose it!  
"DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE!!!"