

National Nuclear Security Administration Fact Sheet

Preliminary Notice of Violation: Classified Information Security Violations at Sandia National Laboratories

On December 21, 2022, the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to National Technologies and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS) for violations of DOE's classified information security program requirements. NTESS is the management and operating contractor to DOE/NNSA's Sandia National Laboratories located in Albuquerque, NM.

The PNOV cites failures to comply with classified information security requirements established under 10 C.F.R. Part 824, *Procedural Rules for the Assessment of Civil Penalties for Classified Information Security Violations*. Specific requirements include DOE Order 471.6, Chg. 3, *Information Security* (September 12, 2019); DOE Order 470.4B, Chg. 2, *Safeguards and Security Program* (January 17, 2017); and DOE Order 473.3A, Chg. 1, *Protection Program Operations* (January 2, 2018).

DOE/NNSA identified three Severity Level II violations involving (1) conducting thorough self-assessments, (2) conducting adequate and thorough IOSC inquiries, and (3) protecting and controlling classified information to prevent unauthorized disclosure.

DOE/NNSA has proposed a civil penalty of \$205,000 based on the security significance of the violations, the security program weaknesses associated with this security event, and in consideration of mitigation for corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

Section 234B of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes DOE/NNSA to take regulatory actions under 10 C.F.R. Part 824, *Procedural Rules for the Assessment of Civil Penalties for Classified Information Security Violations*, against DOE/NNSA contractors for violations of classified information security requirements. DOE's enforcement program encourages Departmental contractors to identify and correct classified information security deficiencies at an early stage, before they contribute to, or result in more serious events.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the DOE website at <http://energy.gov/ea/services/enforcement>.