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NNSS makes milestone modernization strides: first net-zero energy building in DOE/NNSA, kickoff for new facility

MERCURY, Nevada – The Nevada National Security Site is making milestone modernization strides. Recent completion of a solar array at the NNSS' fire station No. 1 marks the first net-zero energy building within the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) enterprise.

A ribbon cutting took place Nov. 28 for the solar array and was followed by a kickoff event to mark the start of grading for Mercury's Building 1, the first structure in the Mercury Modernization series. To be built and completed in 2019, Building 1 will also be a net-zero energy building, utilizing the excess capacity of the new solar array that is currently powering the fire station.

"This is an exciting time for the NNSS," said NNSA Nevada Field Office Manager Steven Lawrence. "Mercury Modernization, combined with the exciting and important national security work we do, now more than ever, better positions the Site to attract the next generation of employees."

The new modernized Mercury campus buildings are being designed as High Performance Sustainable Buildings with LEED Gold and net-zero energy design criteria. The site's 10-year modernization plan allows for building consolidation, system failure prevention and operational efficiencies. Along with eight buildings, an Information Technology hub and expansion facilities, the site's existing infrastructure will be upgraded to feature improved utilities, water and communication lines, plus new solar carports, roadways and landscaping.

The first grid-tied solar PV installation in the NNSS portfolio, the solar array installation provides 424 kilowatts DC of solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generation and leverages existing infrastructure to maximize the amount of renewable energy generation to the site. The project demonstrates practical application of technologies that can make facilities sustainable and more cost-effective over the long-term and provides an example of how to effectively leverage DOE enterprise capabilities in partnership with private and public sector resources.

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The NNSS is managed and operated by Mission Support and Test Services LLC (MSTS). MSTS is a limited liability company consisting of Honeywell International Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., and HII Nuclear. The NNSS falls under the jurisdiction of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The Site's operations are government-controlled and contractor-operated, and are overseen by NNSA's Nevada Field Office, headquartered in North Las Vegas.

For more information on the NNSS, visit www.nnss.gov.