

National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Field Office
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U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm visits Nevada National Security Site

Las Vegas – U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm visited the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) this week during a trip to the Silver State. It was the Secretary’s first visit since her confirmation in February 2021 amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. Granholm is the 16th Secretary of Energy and the second woman to lead the U.S. Department of Energy since its creation in 1977. [Video of her tour is available for download on YouTube.](#)

The Secretary’s visit included a tour of the Site’s U1a Complex (an underground facility where the NNSS performs scientific work to support national security), briefings from the NNSS Remote Sensing Laboratory at Nellis Air Force Base and Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and surveys of several of the Site’s facilities and ongoing infrastructure projects.

“It is so helpful to be here to physically see the work being done at the Nevada National Security Site,” said Granholm. “What you do is incredibly important to this nation and the world. On behalf of the 330 million in the United States, and the billions of people across the globe, thank you for your part in making this a safer planet.”

Granholm visited the town of Mercury, once home to 10,000 people in the 1960s who worked at what was then known as the Nevada Test Site. Mercury’s structures, some dating back to the 1950s, house operations and other critical functions for the 1,355-square-mile Site.

Mercury is undergoing a renaissance as the NNSS transforms aging infrastructure and facilities into energy efficient, resilient and high-performance utilities and structures to support its modern national security mission. A shining example is Fire Station 1, which was the first net zero and LEED Gold certified building in the National Nuclear Security Administration. A solar array in Mercury powers Fire Station 1 and the 14,000-square-foot Building 1, also net zero and LEED Gold certified, that opened in 2018. Four existing buildings have been certified by the NNSA as High-Performance Sustainable Buildings and several new energy efficient buildings are slated for construction in the coming years.

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“I am impressed by your ingenuity and purposeful transition to sustainable energy sources, and with your space and abundant sunshine, I look to you to think ambitiously about renewable energy,” said Granholm. “The NNSS is poised to become a shining example of sustainability.”

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The NNSS and its related facilities help ensure the security of the United States and its allies by: supporting the stewardship of the nation’s nuclear deterrent; providing nuclear and radiological emergency response capabilities and training; contributing to key nonproliferation and arms control initiatives; executing national-level experiments in support of the National Laboratories; working with national security customers and other federal agencies on important national security activities; and providing long-term environmental stewardship of the NNSS’s Cold War legacy.

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.

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