



P Tunnel

Located more than 100 miles north of Las Vegas at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), P Tunnel provides a safe, secure, controlled, and remote underground testbed for high-hazard, high-explosive experiments for government partners. Unique geologic characteristics make P Tunnel an ideal setting for experimentation and other national security projects.

P Tunnel, roughly 900 feet underground, encompasses four miles of horizontal mined space and features multiple testbeds which support the research, development, and evaluation of technical solutions that strengthen current and future nuclear nonproliferation capabilities. P Tunnel also serves as a proving ground for critical response to nuclear terrorism attribution and forensic analysis.

Historically, P Tunnel was the site of four nuclear underground weapons effects tests between 1987 and 1992. Today, the facility is used for non-nuclear, high-hazard, explosive experimentation and first responder training. Research conducted at P Tunnel provides data to enable detection of underground low-yield nuclear testing and other nuclear weapons development activities.

P Tunnel's developed spaces ensure programmatic work can be accomplished for numerous National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and other government partners, including:

- NNSA Office of Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation
- NNSA Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Program

- Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- Department of Defense partnership projects



Key Features

- Daily operations support for multiple testbeds, as well as mining and construction of new testbeds
- Underground radiography
- Underground camera system for remote operations support
- Underground space for managing explosive timing and firing operations
- Surface high-explosives storage magazine and other support facilities for multiple projects
- Internet capabilities and access to the Emergency Communications Network and Voice over Internet Protocol phones
- Rail system for transport of personnel and equipment
- Underground health and safety refuge chambers, restrooms, and break areas



Work We Do

- Explosive experimentation, data collection and modeling
- Surface weather experiments in which smoke and tracer gases can be released from underground to support modeling of signatures at remote locations
- Forensics data collection exercises
- Large-scale, multi-agency, nuclear response training exercises
- Research, development, and evaluation to provide data that enhance strategic stability and counter nuclear proliferation
- Location for large-scale campaigns and exercises to enhance responses to nuclear and/or radiological incidents and accidents worldwide
- Continuous expert workforce development and experiential training to enhance nuclear threat reduction capabilities now and into the future

Benefits

- P Tunnel provides a site for collaboration with the National Laboratories, other government agencies and allies for finding solutions to national missions.



For more information, visit:

www.nnss.gov

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