
Opening Statement of Dave Beck
Nominee for Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs
National Nuclear Security Administration, U.S. Department of Energy
Before the United States Senate Committee on Armed Services
Oct 7, 2025

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and distinguished members of the Committee:

It is an honor to appear before you today. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our nation and humbled by President Trump's trust in nominating me for the role of Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs within the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Wright, Administrator Williams, and the entire Department in advancing NNSA's critical national security missions.

My wife, Jane, and our three children, Kara, David and Jaxson are with me today. Jane's unwavering support has been a cornerstone of my personal and professional journey, and I thank her for making this a meaningful learning experience for our children.

The NNSA's nuclear security mission is crucial to our national defense. Ensuring the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear stockpile is a strategic imperative. This mission requires steadfast commitment to our personnel, the modernization of our production and laboratory infrastructure, and the ongoing advancement of science, engineering, and technology to address evolving threats.

The NNSA enterprise is filled with the most talented and dedicated professionals I have ever worked with—scientists, engineers, production experts, support personnel, and security professionals. Having had the privilege of working alongside many of them throughout my career, I know firsthand the caliber of this workforce. Aligning incentives of all individuals and organizations to the mission is central to achieving our shared objectives.

If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to enhance our strategic deterrence capability and strengthen the credibility and alignment of the NNSA's efforts with the Department of War and other national stakeholders. I am committed to delivering timely, mission-focused outcomes while ensuring enterprise transparency, accountability, and collaboration.

We face a rapidly evolving threat landscape. Our adversaries are acting with increasing speed and boldness, seeking to challenge our security and undermine our deterrence posture. In response, we must act with urgency and precision. Our mission cannot fail; therefore, we must lead with discipline, innovation, and an unwavering focus on results.

With over 40 years of experience in the nuclear weapons complex, I offer a broad and integrated perspective—from laboratories to production sites, and from program execution to executive leadership. During my previous tenure as NNSA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Stockpile

Operations and Military Applications (1999–2004), I helped guide the organization through pivotal moments, including its formation, the post-9/11 national security transition, and the launch of life extension programs for our legacy stockpile. I also spent seven years at Los Alamos National Laboratory, serving as Associate Director for Weapons and Engineering and as Principal Deputy for Weapons Programs.

I am proud of the progress made by our enterprise and optimistic about our ability to take our performance to the next level to surpass any adversary through the strength of our people, the integration of our laboratories and production sites, and a shared commitment to operational excellence.

If confirmed, I will bring to this role the same dedication and sense of purpose that have guided me throughout my career. I will lead with clarity, urgency, and accountability, ensuring that the NNSA continues to deliver on its vital mission with excellence and integrity.

Thank you once more for this opportunity to appear before the Committee. I welcome your questions and, if confirmed, I look forward to working closely with you.