

for further information, contact:
Susan Gordon (505) 473-1670
or local contacts listed at end of advisory.

for use after 10am, Monday, April 14, 2008, Russell Senate Office Bldg. Rm. 485 News Conference

**NEW PRESIDENT MUST OVERHAUL U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM;
"REPORT CARD" FINDS ENERGY DEPT. IS "OUT OF CONTROL"**

The new administration which takes office next January must overhaul the Department of Energy(DOE), the federal agency that runs the nation's nuclear weapons program, according to a "Report Card" issued today by leaders of groups from communities downwind and downstream from DOE research, testing, production and waste disposal sites.

"DOE and its National Nuclear Security Agency are out of control," said Susan Gordon, Director of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA). "They are ignoring instructions from Congress to end wasteful projects, hiding money for new weapons in the budget, and failing to heed many environmental requirements. A new administration must reign in this rogue agency." ANA's "Report Card" gave DOE an "F" for "Funding Environmental Obligations" and a "D" for pursuing a new generation of nuclear weapons under the benign label "Complex Transformation."

The only high mark was a tongue-in-cheek "A+" for "Provocative Weapons Production," projects ANA called "budget-busting 'solutions' to nonexistent problems."

Each ANA grade included recommendations for the new administration, such as "Replace top DOE leaders with appointees committed to fulfilling U.S. obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty" and "Provide adequate funding to meet cleanup obligations."

Marylia Kelley, Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) who lives across the street from DOE's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, explained, "Congress voted last year to de-fund the 'Reliable Replacement Warhead' (RRW) program, but as much as \$90 million is hidden in DOE's current budget request for RRW projects. DOE's 'Complex Transformation' scheme puts the cart before the horse by planning to construct new weapons facilities before the new administration completes a legally required Nuclear Posture Review."

"DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman has admitted that his agency's program to address the toxic and radioactive legacy of nuclear weapons production has 'decelerated,'" added Gerry Pollett, J.D., Executive Director of Heart of America Northwest in Seattle. "DOE's current budget request falls short of fulfilling its environmental obligations by about \$1.5 billion. That will result in greater risk to water, worker safety and public health at sites such as Hanford. DOE is simply not up to the task of running the nation's largest cleanup program, with a projected cost of \$250 billion or more."

Other grades in ANA's DOE Report Card included a C- for "Waste Management" and "F" marks for both the "Global Nuclear Energy Partnership" and "Nuclear Power Revival." The news conference kicked off ANA's twentieth annual "DC Days." During the coming week, more than five dozen ANA activists from across the country have scheduled scores of meetings with members of Congress, their staffs and Administration officials to discuss nuclear weapons issues.

On Tuesday evening, April 15, ANA will sponsor an awards reception honoring U.S. Senators Byron Dorgan and Dianne Feinstein, Representatives David Hobson and Peter Visclosky, and policy analysts Robert Alvarez and Christopher Paine. The event will take place in Room B-340 of the Rayburn House Office Building beginning at 6:00pm.

- The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's 2008 "Nuclear Weapons Report Card" and a detailed "Nuclear Weapons Report Card Grade Book" are online at <http://www.ananuclear.org>

- An ANA briefing kit on current nuclear weapons issues is available on request

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability 1400 Maclovía Street, Santa Fe, NM 505 473-1670
322 4th Street, NE, Washington DC. 20002 202-544-0217