



## Around the Region in Homeland Security March 2008

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

This issue highlights

- A regional program to help ensure security of nuclear materials
- A pilot on integrated communications architecture
- Progress on a maritime pilot for radiation detection on small vessels
- An effort to model movement of contaminants in aquatic environments.

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### Regional Program Helps Ensure Nuclear Security

PNNL's Global Threat Reduction Program (GTRP) has begun working in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Radiation Protection to address the potential risk posed by radioactive sources and commercial nuclear materials located in the Pacific Northwest. The concern is that such sources and materials, in the wrong hands, could be used for malevolent purposes to assemble a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or improvised nuclear device (IND).

The GTRP is funded by the National Nuclear Security Administration and directly supports that agency's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). A key programmatic element of GTRI focuses specifically on reducing the risk posed by radioactive sources and commercial nuclear materials located within the United States. The types of sources and materials are widely varied and can include those used in medical, educational, research, and commercial applications.

The GTRI efforts are closely coordinated with those of the National Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear

Detection Office (DNDO). The program offers the following services at no cost to the state or custodians of nuclear materials:

- Customized training on a broad range of security-related topics such as critical asset protection, vulnerability assessments, protection and accounting technologies, human reliability, and overall safeguards and security program development.
- For existing systems and programs, comprehensive assessment services ranging from specific vulnerability assessment calculations to broad programmatic readiness assessments.
- Assistance in developing and implementing secured material inventory management and control systems for tracking source inventories.
- Facilitation of discussions between hosting facilities and local, state, and federal law enforcement and fire organizations to address comprehensive response and coordination.
- Minimally invasive security solutions that emphasize low-technology, low-cost adjustments to existing protection systems to improve the overall security infrastructure of a facility.
- Programmatic solutions that work with existing facility capabilities to maximize system sustainability and minimize operational cost.
- Reviews of existing protection procedures and processes and recommendations for modifications to enhance security protection and safety.
- Verbal and/or written assessment reports and recommendations to any and all site personnel having direct or indirect access and affect on the target materials.
- A rapidly deployable security team to conduct initial and follow-up consultations and assistance free of charge to hosting facilities.

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## DHS Selects City for Integrated Communications Architecture Pilot

DHS has selected Los Angeles/Long Beach as the location for its integrated communications architecture pilot after a 5-month assessment of six potential cities that included Seattle. PNNL has been assisting Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in identifying a site for the pilot of an integrated communications architecture for chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) sensors to increase situational awareness for city officials and first responders. PNNL assessed Seattle, Los Angeles/Long Beach, and Anaheim as potential sites. ANL concentrated on New York, Boston, and Chicago.

None of the cities have fully integrated CBRNE sensors into a common operating picture for rapid situational awareness. Los Angeles was chosen because of the comprehensive array of sensors already in place, the eagerness of the responder community to support the integration effort, and the character of the existing communication infrastructure.



