



Threat of dirty bomb reduced by NNSA

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (UPI) -- The National Nuclear Security Administration says it has achieved a milestone in reducing the threat of a terrorist creating a dirty bomb in the United States.

The NNSA said it has recovered more than 20,000 excess radioactive sources in the United States as part of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The recovery of materials like plutonium, cesium and cobalt, among others, is seen as an achievement in reducing the possibility that these materials could be seized by terrorists and used in making a dirty bomb, the NNSA reported.

The excess and unwanted radioactive materials were collected by the NNSA from academic and commercial institutions.

"This major achievement in the removal of these radioactive sources ends any threat that they could be used in a dirty bomb," Thomas D'Agostino, NNSA administrator, said in a statement.

"NNSA's continued progress illustrates our comprehensive strategy to keep dangerous nuclear and radiological material safe and secure."