

**Questions from
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The completion date for the NWC approved W76-1 LEP used to be 2012, then it slipped to 2013 in the FY05 budget request, then to 2017 in the FY06 budget request, then to 2020 in the FY07 budget request, and most recently 2021 in the FY08 budget request.

1. Why has the date slipped?

The planned completion date for the W76 Life Extension Program (LEP) has changed in response to evolving military requirements for the total number of W76 warheads to be refurbished in the LEP. The specific numbers have been provided to Congress in the annual W76 LEP Selected Acquisition Reports, which are classified. All current LEP milestones to begin the LEP have been met to date.

The completion date of the LEP is dependent on the total quantities and delivery rates that are established by the Department of Defense (DoD). The initial W76 LEP cost estimate was established in the Weapon Design and Cost Report in FY 2002 for a planned refurbishment of 25 percent of the stockpile,* which was meant to meet the DoD requirements established before 2001. The 2001 Nuclear Posture Review resulted in plans to refurbish a significantly greater quantity. The most recent classified Selected Acquisition Report estimate is for a planned refurbishment of 63 percent of the stockpile* as established by the DoD's Strategic Capabilities Assessment.

2. Has the size of the program changed during the years mentioned above?

The scope of the program has changed, to respond to DoD requirements. Details of military requirements, to include precise quantities, have been provided to Congress annually in classified Selected Acquisition Reports.

3. Will all non-LEP W76s be retired by the LEP completion year? If not, when?

Many options are being considered through stockpile transformation efforts consistent with national military strategy. The path forward will be determined in the annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Memorandum process.

* The NNSA has subsequently clarified that "stockpile" refers to the inventory of W76 warheads rather than the total DOD warhead stockpile. (Ed.)