

United States Nuclear Data Program

Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

This document describes the activities that US Nuclear Data Program members are planning to do during the Fiscal Year 2026.

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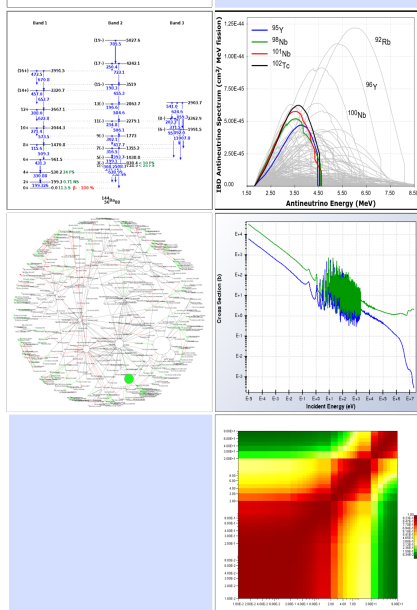
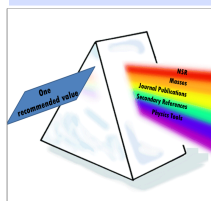
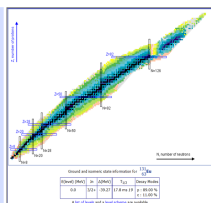
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Acknowledgements

Work at Argonne National Laboratory was sponsored by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357.

Work at Brookhaven National Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-SC0012704.

Work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231.

Work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC52-07NA27344.

Work at Los Alamos National Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy. Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by Triad National Security, LLC, for the National Nuclear Security Administration of U.S. Department of Energy (Contract No. 89233218CNA000001).

Work at Michigan State University was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-SC0016948.

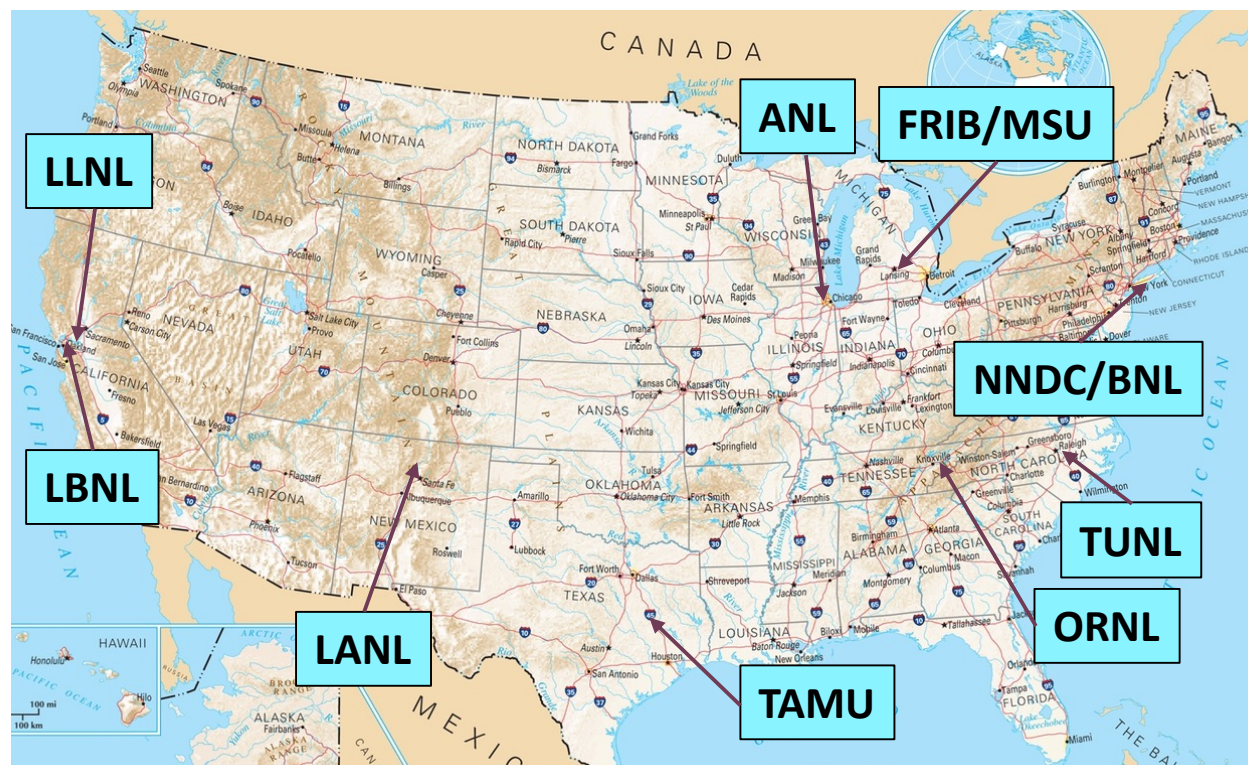
Work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC05-00OR22725.

Work at Texas A University was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-FG02-93ER40773.

Work at Triangle Nuclear Laboratory was supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics, Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract Nos. DE-FG02-97ER41033 (Duke University) and DE-FG02-97ER41042 (North Carolina State University).

USNDP Mission

The mission of the United States Nuclear Data Program (USNDP) is to provide current, accurate, authoritative data for workers in pure and applied areas of nuclear science and engineering. This is accomplished primarily through the compilation, evaluation, dissemination, and archiving of extensive nuclear datasets. USNDP also addresses gaps in the data, through targeted experimental studies and the use of theoretical models.



Map courtesy of the USGS (<https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/general-reference-printable-map>).

Introduction

The work plan described in this document has been developed to cover work to be performed by the U. S. Nuclear Data Program (USNDP) during Fiscal Year 2026 that begins on October 1, 2025. Previously, 26 work plans have been prepared for the nuclear data program covering FYs 2000-2025. This plan has been prepared in consultation with the members of the Coordinating Committee who represent the organizations participating in the program. Each Coordinating Committee member prepared a draft plan for his/her organization. Each contribution was integrated into a unified work plan. The draft plan was then circulated to the Coordinating Committee for comments and corrections before the final document was submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

As was done in previous years, the tasks proposed by the various organizations were reviewed internally according to the following criteria, which were developed considering the mission and goals outlined in past review panel reports and oversight committee discussions, and in consultation with the DOE program manager.

1. A task should be consistent with USNDP mission statement and meet one of the four program priorities:
 - a) Compilation of experimental results and relevant information published in the literature.
 - b) Evaluation of the nuclear structure and decay and nuclear reaction data, including improvements of the evaluation methodology.
 - c) Archival and dissemination of nuclear data to the user community.
 - d) Addressing specific data needs and gaps in nuclear data through targeted experiments.
2. A task should be useful to at least one major user community.
3. A task should not duplicate efforts within or outside the program.

The plan is divided into six major components. Specific tasks have been assigned to them. They are as follows:

- I. NNDC Facility Operation
- II. Nuclear Physics Databases
- III. Information Dissemination
- IV. Nuclear Structure Physics
- V. Nuclear Reaction Physics

The following section details the proposed work plan for FY2026, defining tasks, organizational responsibilities, and planned activities. Incorporated in the National Nuclear Data Center (NNDC) plan is a group of subcontracted external scientists, including nuclear structure evaluators and compilers.

For FY2026, we expect that:

- Compilation and dissemination activities will be fully supported.
- Development of nuclear reaction codes will continue focusing on evaluation methodology (fission, prompt fission neutron spectra, inelastic scattering, angular distributions and covariances).
- Internationally coordinated activities related to new Zr ENDF evaluations, EXFOR modernization, and the new XML format for ENDF/B will be carried out.
- Dissemination of the nuclear data will continue approximately on the same level.
- Modernization of the ENSDF library evaluation methods and procedures will continue.

The priority nuclear data activities remain:

- Compilation of literature (NSR) nuclear structure (XUNDL) and reaction (EXFOR) data.
- Evaluation of nuclear structure and decay data (ENSDF).
- Evaluation of nuclear reaction data (ENDF).
- Development of nuclear theory codes in support of data evaluation.
- Development and maintenance of evaluation-related software, formats, and manuals.
- Data archival and dissemination.

The following section details the proposed work plan for FY2026, defining tasks, organizational responsibilities, and planned activities. The present work plan was prepared assuming the FY2026 is a 2% COL increase over the FY2025 budget, as shown in Figure 1, giving a planning budget of \$8.564M.

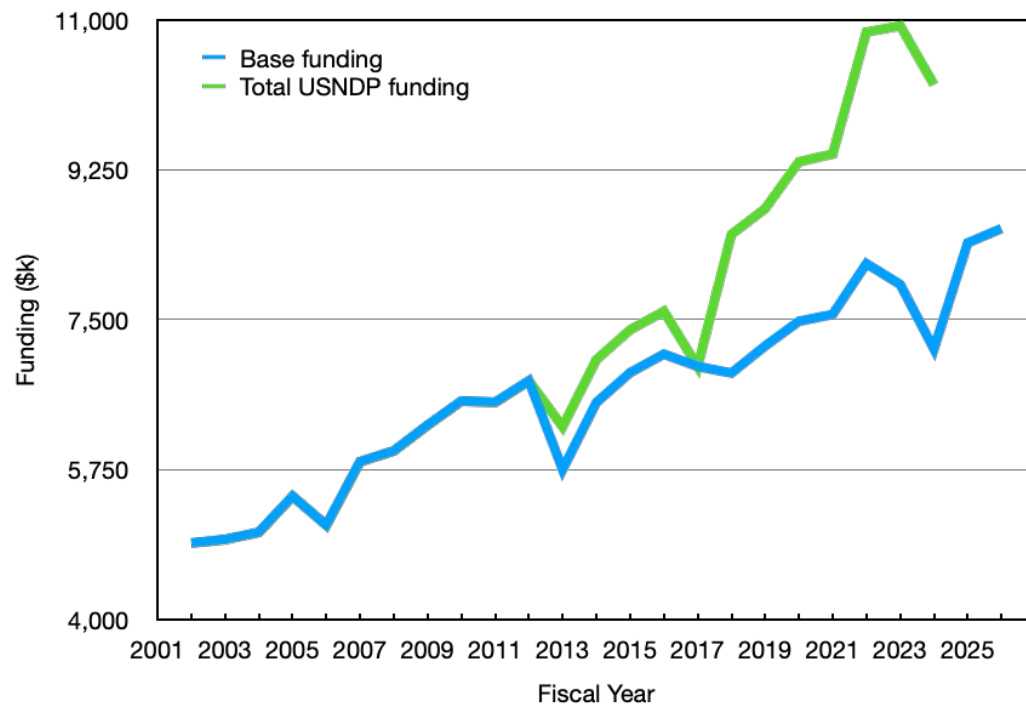


Figure 1: Summary of the USNDP funding since 2002.

Detailed Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

I. Operations

A. Management

This task includes planning, budgeting, personnel, interaction with management, and interaction with funding authorities.

BNL Planned Activities
Prepare and organize USNDP budget briefing.
Prepare USNDP reports and work plans.
Organize and chair USNDP meeting.
Lead drafting of the USNDP Renewal proposal
Develop Roles and Responsibilities documents for the USNDP and each of its major data product projects

LANL Planned Activities
Organize and chair Nuclear Reaction Working Group.

TUNL Planned Activities
Organize and chair USNDP Nuclear Structure Committee.

B. Library

NNDC maintains an archival collection of low- and intermediate-energy nuclear physics publications. This library supports the NNDC compilation activities, the U.S. nuclear reaction and nuclear structure data evaluation, and international nuclear structure evaluation effort.

BNL Planned Activities
Following the NNDC move to building 490, re-establish NNDC library in new area

C. Customer Services

This task accounts for the non-electronic services which the USNDP renders to customers. At the scientific staff level, this means direct assistance to users needing advice from nuclear data experts or advice on solving complex queries via electronic access to the database. The NNDC staff allocation at the support level is for maintaining a "help desk" as well as for administrative/clerical support of its customer services.

BNL Planned Activities
Provide technical support to nuclear data end-users as necessary.

D. Computer Operation

The NNDC operates several Linux servers to support compilation, evaluation, database maintenance, and information dissemination functions. In addition, each staff member has a desktop computer that supports an interface to these Linux servers and supports administrative functions, such as word processing and email.

BNL Planned Activities
Provide technical computer support to NNDC staff, visitors, and external collaborators to enable them to effectively and securely use NNDC computing resources as well as procure computer hardware, software and support services to meet NNDC's computing requirements.
Manage the high performance NNDC/NX cluster.
Upgrade GitLab server software to provide more powerful and advanced functionalities in the NNDC collaboration services.
Manage the NNDC Gitlab instance to enable collaboration on various nuclear data computational projects
In collaboration with ITD, ensure continuous availability of mission-critical Web services through full compliance of NNDC's computers with DOE cyber security requirements.
Maintain the NNDC Web Services availability on the 99.9% and higher level.
Strictly follow all BNL and DOE cybersecurity rules and regulations during the Web application design, development and implementation. Address issues that arise during BNL scans.

E. Nuclear Data Sheets

The USNDP provides some paper publications as well as electronic access to the nuclear physics databases that it maintains. This includes the Nuclear Data Sheets journal published by Elsevier and various versions of the Nuclear Wallet Cards.

BNL Planned Activities
Prepare issues of Nuclear Data Sheets for publication.

MSU Planned Activities
Continue development of software for Nuclear Data Sheets publication.

F. Web Site Maintenance

The NNDC provides electronic access to the nuclear physics databases that it maintains on behalf of the USNDP as well as access to other nuclear physics information through its website. Other USNDP members also offer nuclear physics information through their websites. These services require resources to maintain currency and improve performance.

ANL Planned Activities

Provide access to published and updated versions of the Atomic Mass Evaluation (AME) and the NUBASE library of nuclear physics properties
Provide access to stand-alone (MacOS and Windows) and mobile (iOS, iPadOS and Android) applications of the AME and NUBASE libraries
Provide access to Argonne Nuclear Data and Measurements Reports (ANL/NDM)

BNL Planned Activities
Solicit user suggestions on enhancements to the ENSDF, NSR, NuDat, and Sigma web interfaces and be responsive to those needs. Expand search and plotting capabilities for ENSDF data.
Continue developing new web interfaces for ENDF and EXFOR databases.
Maintain currency of the CSEWG, USNDP and the NNDC websites, proactively respond to users' requests.
Make progress with modernization of the website, enhancing capabilities and following industry best practices.
Continue development of mobile applications targeting highly used databases.

ORNL Planned Activities
Update online nuclear astrophysics server as required.

TUNL Planned Activities
Provide access to present and past evaluations of Energy Levels of Light Nuclei for A=3-20 nuclides, including associated figures and energy-level diagrams and tables.
Provide access to compiled and evaluated data on light nuclei related to p-, alpha- and n-capture reactions, and ground-state decays.
Provide access for TUNL dissertations collection.

LBNL Planned Activities
Continued maintenance of the LBNL/UCB Nuclear Data Group Website (https://nucleardata.berkeley.edu/), which attracted 6958 unique visitors in FY25. This website hosts all of the data products produced by the LBNL group.

II. Main Nuclear Physics Databases

A. Nuclear Science References (NSR)

The NNDC is responsible for NSR, the bibliographic database for nuclear physics research. This task includes data compilation, quality control, file update and maintenance, and file distribution to collaborators. Updates are performed on a continuing basis. The preparation of NSR entries is given under Nuclear Structure Physics. The literature search and preparation of KEYWORD abstracts for publications included in NSR require scientific expertise. BNL continues to have the overall responsibility for this database. Similar contributions from other external collaborators are expected. These will be checked and edited by BNL as necessary before being added to the database.

BNL Planned Activities
Prepare entries for new references and keyword abstracts for 2/3 of them. Provide coverage for 80 major journals, including complete coverage of Physical Review C, Nuclear Physics A, and European Physical Journal A.
Distribute database to collaborators.
Perform database updates and maintenance.
Continue joint project with the NRDC network to transfer missing nuclear reaction references to NSR.
Study in depth the possibilities of using AI and ML techniques in NSR.
Complete modernizing the NSR workflow and data model.

B. Experimental Nuclear Structure Data (XUNDL)

The NNDC is responsible for maintaining and providing access to the XUNDL database. This database contains compilations (in ENSDF format) of recently published or completed level-structure data for high-spin and low-spin physics. The NNDC coordinates this work and updates the database as new/revised data sets are received from collaborators.

BNL Planned Activities
Perform weekly updates of the database using input received from compilers.
Archive and distribute database yearly.
Review compiled datasets submitted by other data centers prior to inclusion in the XUNDL database. Work with PRC and EPJA to check and compile data prior to publication.

C. Evaluated Nuclear Structure Data File (ENSDF)

The NNDC is responsible for ENSDF, a database of evaluated experimental nuclear structure and decay data. The NNDC is responsible for the format and content checking, preparation of the manuscript, and quality control (review) of evaluations submitted for inclusion. The NNDC maintains the database, which includes database updates and distribution to collaborators. Corrections are implemented on a continuous basis.

BNL Planned Activities
Maintain ENSDF database, includes continuous updating.
Process evaluations received from ENSDF evaluators.
Archive and distribute ENSDF database on a monthly basis.
Proceed with the ENSDF modernization project.

D. Numerical Nuclear Data (NuDat)

The NNDC is responsible for NuDat, which consists of a database and a suite of codes that access it, allowing web users to search for level and γ -ray properties extracted from ENSDF, ground and metastable

state properties (Wallet Cards), and atomic and nuclear radiations derived from ENSDF. Additionally, NuDat contains an interactive Chart of Nuclides and interactive level schemes.

BNL Planned Activities
Update NuDat database as necessary.

E. Experimental Reaction Data File (EXFOR)

The NNDC is responsible for maintaining the EXFOR database for Area 1 (North America). This database contains experimental nuclear reaction data for incident energies below 1 GeV, including neutron-induced reactions and reactions with incident-charged particles of mass $A \leq 12$. Many groups worldwide compile experimental data and send it to the central database at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna in the EXFOR format. Then, each center is responsible to update its own database. The effort described here includes quality control, file update, and data transfer activities. The NNDC database is updated as compilations are exchanged and checked from the compiling centers. The compilation activity is given under Nuclear Reaction Physics.

BNL Planned Activities
Update EXFOR database with compilations from cooperating centers (500 entries expected for the entire network). The NNDC compilation work can be found under Nuclear Reaction Physics, Section V of the present document.
Compile experimental data for neutron, charged-particle, and photon-induced reactions from over one hundred publications.
Explore possibilities of recovering previously unobtainable reaction data and proactively respond to users' needs.
Lead to WPEC Subgroup 54, the successor group to subgroup 50, focused on creating a critically reviewed version of EXFOR.

F. Evaluated Nuclear Data File (ENDF)

The NNDC is responsible for ENDF, a database of evaluated nuclear data required for many nuclear applications. The work is organized under the CSEWG, coordinated by the NNDC. The ENDF file contains complete descriptions of nuclear reactions of neutrons with many nuclides and elements for energies up to 20 MeV and radiations from radioactive decay. A number of evaluations for energies up to 150 MeV and for incident-charged particles and photons are also included. The data are stored in the ENDF format developed at NNDC in the 1960s and adopted as an international standard. In addition to the U.S. library, ENDF/B, the database contains evaluated data libraries from the European Union, Japan, Russia, and China. This activity includes the processing and quality control of the U.S. ENDF/B library, the distribution of this database in the U.S. and the exchange of libraries internationally. New evaluations for the next release of the library, following ENDF/B-VIII.1, are assembled, tested and made available to users through NNDC's Web servers and GitLab collaboration server at git.nndc.bnl.gov.

BNL Planned Activities
Maintain and improve Sigma database and web interface for users without specialized knowledge of ENDF-6 format.

Maintain and extend ADVANCE, the ENDF continuous integration system that continually checks for modification to the ENDF database then runs all available tests on the changed data files.
Maintain the ENDF project area on NNDC's gitlab instance.
Coordinate the peer review of evaluations submitted to the ENDF project.
Prepare and release beta releases of the next ENDF library, as determined by CSEWG.

III. Nuclear Structure Physics

A. National Coordination

The NNDC is the Secretariat for the U.S. Nuclear Data Program (USNDP). Members of the USNDP plan an active roll coordinating national structure evaluation and data preservation activities

BNL Planned Activities
Participate in the Nuclear Data Working Group (NDWG), including helping in the organization of sessions on inventory calculations.

LBNL Planned Activities
Participate in the Nuclear Data Working Group (NDWG), including helping in the organization of sessions in both the WANDA 2025 (Fusion) and WANDA 2026 (facilities) sessions.

LLNL Planned Activities
Chair a WANDA session on nuclear data for inventory calculations.

MSU Planned Activities
Co-chair and organize a nuclear data session at the annual Low-Energy Community Meeting.

TUNL Planned Activities
Co-chair and organize a nuclear data session at the annual Low-Energy Community Meeting.

B. International Coordination

Members of the USNDP plan an active roll coordinating international structure evaluation and data preservation activities

ANL Planned Activities
Technical coordinator of the IAEA-led project on "Evaluated Decay Data Library for Monitoring Applications". Contribute to the evaluation and review of nuclear decay data for selected radionuclides and oversee the review process.
Lecture at the ICTP-IAEA school on 'Nuclear Structure and Decay Data Experiment, Theory and Evaluation'

BNL Planned Activities
Serve as co-director of ICTP/IAEA Workshop on ENSDF Evaluation
Co-chair International Nuclear Structure and Decay Data (NSDD) meeting

MSU Planned Activities
Co-lead and coordinate hands-on activities for ENSDF evaluation of a mass chain at the IAEA-ICTP nuclear structure and decay data workshop
Coordinate the post-workshop collaborative evaluation of the mass chain by international working groups of the ICTP workshop
Serve as rapporteur for the technical meetings of the international Nuclear Structure and Decay Data (NSDD) evaluator network and the IAEA-led project on "Evaluated Decay Data Library for Monitoring Applications"

TUNL Planned Activities
Participate as an observer, and give feedback, for the consultant meeting of the International Nuclear Data Evaluation Network for Light Elements (INDEN-LE)

C. Compilation of Experimental Nuclear Structure Data

This activity involves compilation of recently published or completed experimental nuclear structure data for inclusion in XUNDL. The compilation is managed by the NNDC.

ANL Planned Activities
Compile and review recently published experimental nuclear structure data relevant to the AME and NUBASE libraries. Interact with the authors for requesting additional experimental data or for further clarification of the published results.
Compile B(E3) experimental data for inclusion into the new topical evaluation on B(E3) transition probabilities. This work is carried out in collaboration with a data scientist from the Australian National University.

BNL Planned Activities
Compile and review datasets for recently published experimental nuclear structure data for inclusion in the XUNDL database. Interact with the authors for requesting additional experimental data or for further clarification of the published results.
Compile new B(E2) experimental data. Continue work on a B(E2) evaluation project.
Compile new double-beta decay experimental data.

MSU Planned Activities
Compile and review datasets for recently published experimental nuclear structure data for inclusion in the XUNDL database. Interact with the authors for requesting additional experimental data or for further clarification of the published results.
Work with PRC and EPJA to check and compile data prior to publication.
Train a MSU undergraduate student for XUNDL compilation

Develop AI-assisted formatting tools for XUNDL compilation

TUNL Planned Activities

Compile and review datasets for recently published experimental nuclear structure data for inclusion in the XUNDL database. Interact with the authors for requesting additional experimental data or for further clarification of the published results.

D. A-Chains and Nuclides Evaluations for ENSDF

USNDP evaluates nuclear structure and decay data for inclusion in the ENSDF database. This effort includes the critical analysis of all available experimental nuclear structure and radioactive decay data for a nuclide or a group of related nuclei to deduce recommended values from the measured data and prepare a file in ENSDF format that is the basis for publications in Nuclear Data Sheets and is used to update the contents of the USNDP nuclear structure and decay database, ENSDF.

ANL Planned Activities

Evaluate at least one mass chain from the ANL region of responsibility.

Review mass chain evaluations, as requested by the ENSDF coordinator.

BNL Planned Activities

Evaluate at least four mass chains or their equivalent nuclides.

Review at least four mass chains or their equivalent nuclides.

Update ENSDF for the identification of new nuclides and for the first publication on the findings of the excited states of nuclides.

Edit all evaluations submitted for publication, including checking their format and physics content.

Continue mentoring new ENSDF evaluators.

LBNL Planned Activities

Plan to submit at least one mass chain (~15 nuclides), address reviewer/editorial comments of the submitted mass chains for publication.

Review at least one mass-chain evaluations, as requested.

MSU Planned Activities

Evaluate the equivalent of at least three mass chains (two by the PI and one by the new ENSDF evaluator trained by the PI).

Review at least one mass-chain evaluation.

Continue training and mentoring the new ENSDF evaluator hired at FRIB in FY25

Develop AI-assisted formatting tools for ENSDF evaluation

ORNL Planned Activities

Evaluate two medium sized mass chains or their equivalent
Review mass-chain evaluations, as requested by NNDC.
Address review comments and complete editorial revisions on mass chains for publication.

TAMU Planned Activities
At least one mass chain, or their equivalent nuclides, will be evaluated.
Review mass-chain evaluations, as requested.
Address post review and editorial work on mass chains in preparation for publication.

TUNL Planned Activities
Evaluate about one A-chain per year for publication in Nuclear Data Sheets and inclusion in the ENSDF database. An objective is to produce two A-chain evaluations per year.
Evaluate and update ENSDF for A=2-20 near drip-line nuclides, especially for first observations or when ENSDF has no previous dataset.

E. Ground and Excited State Properties

ANL Planned Activities
Evaluate atomic masses and complementary nuclear structure data for the AME and NUBASE libraries. Complete and publish the new AME and NUBASE evaluations.
Respond to user needs for evaluated nuclear masses and other related nuclear physics properties

TAMU Planned Activities
Developing a visualization of high-spin level schemes

F. Non-ENSDF Decay and Structure Data Evaluations

ANL Planned Activities
Technical coordinator of the IAEA-led project on "Evaluated Decay Data Library for Monitoring Applications". Contribute to the evaluation and review of nuclear decay data for selected radionuclides and overseen the review process. The project will be completed this year.

LBNL Planned Activities
As part of our work on the Berkeley Evaluated Alpha proton Radioactivity (BEApR) database compiling all experimental data on beta-delayed and direct heavy charged particle emission. In FY25 the group has completed the compilation and is now maintaining the database as new publications are produced.
LBNL update IAEA Photon Strength Function Database with new experimental data (unrelated to quasicontinuum data evaluator traineeship).

LBNL updating and Improving Nuclear Level Densities for Applications through IAEA CRP - FY26 will be the second year of this 4-year effort (unrelated to quasicontinuum data evaluator traineeship).

Maintain a numerical database with complete Gamma-ray-X ray coincidence data developed in a joint effort with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency called the Python Archive of Coincident Emissions from ENSDF (paceENSDF), which is being disseminated through GitHub and PyPi. It is being benchmarked against ENSDF decay data as well as recently published datasets not yet included in ENSDF.

MSU Planned Activities

Contribute to the IAEA-led project on "Evaluated Decay Data Library for Monitoring Applications."

G. Nuclear Structure Data Measurements

ANL Planned Activities

Contribute to nuclear physics research activities at ANL (ATLAS and nuCARIBU), MSU (FRIB), and other nuclear physics user facilities with the main emphasis on decay studies of neutron-rich nuclei, spectroscopy of heavy actinide nuclei, and nuclei far from the line of stability.

BNL Planned Activities

Precisely determine decay schemes relevant for applications using state-of-the-art gamma-ray spectroscopy.

Contribute to measurements at user facilities, such as Argonne's ATLAS and MSU's FRIB.

LBNL Planned Activities

Analyze historical $^{238}\text{U}(n,f)$ decay and prompt data gamma-ray data sets obtained using the GENESIS array. Results from these experiments are planned for publication as a part of the dissertation of a Berkeley student planned for 2028.

Perform structure and decay measurements using the LBNL 88-Inch cyclotron and DT-API neutron generator on the UC Berkeley campus. This includes neutron scattering using the GENESIS and NEXUS array in collaboration with the NNSA, stopping power measurements with the Missile Defense Agency, activation/cross section measurements with the DOE Isotope Program and integral fusion materials testing with DOE and corporate partners.

MSU Planned Activities

Contribute to gamma-ray spectroscopy and lifetime measurements with GRETINA and beta-delayed proton-decay measurements of astrophysically-important nuclei at FRIB

TAMU Planned Activities

Contribute to beta-gamma spectroscopy for precision measurements of half-lives and branching ratios for Standard Model at Cyclotron Institute.

H. ENSDF Physics and Checking Codes

BNL Planned Activities
Maintain and upgrade ENSDF checking and physics programs for format changes as required.
Prepare ENSDF file editor for use in data evaluation.
Modernize ENSDF physics code to accomodate new ENSDF format.
Work on the development of a new editor for the ENSDF format and develop applications that apply Machine Learning techniques to the new format.

MSU Planned Activities
Maintain and improve the ENSDF utility and analysis codes in Java developed at MSU, such as McMaster-MSU-Java-NDS, ConsistencyCheck, GLSC, Java-RULER, Excel2ENSDF, FormatCheck, AlphaHF, KeynumberCheck, AME-Nubase-viewer.
Continue to develop and improve the ENSDF-evaluation toolkit (EvaluationToolkit) that combines all ENSDF Java codes and provides a simple user-friendly interface to help facilitate, streamline and automate the ENSDF-evaluation process.
Continue to develop new Java codes to replace the remaining legacy ENSDF codes in Fortran that lack maintenance.
Continue to develop the new Java-NDS program and other utility and analysis Java codes to work with the new ENSDF JSON format
Develop other tools to seamlessly work with Microsoft's VS code editor for further facilitating ENSDF evaluation workflow
Study in depth the possibilities of using AI and ML techniques with existing codes for ENSDF workflow

LLNL Planned Activities
Collaborate with BNL in the development of the next generation ENSDF format and develop applications that apply Machine Learning techniques to the new format.

IV. Nuclear Reaction Physics

A. National Coordination

The NNDC is the Secretariat for the Cross Section Evaluation Working Group (CSEWG). Other members of the USNDP also have leadership roles within CSEWG.

BNL Planned Activities
Organize and chair CSEWG meeting at BNL.
Edit and publish summary reports and proceedings of the CSEWG meetings.
Chair the CSEWG Executive Committee.
Organize mini-CSEWG, Hackathon, and/or other meetings in the summer if needed, as mandated by the CSEWG Executive Committee.

LANL Planned Activities

Organize and chair CSEWG Fission Product Yield Subcommittee.
Organize and chair CSEWG Covariance Subcommittee.
Organize and chair Nuclear Reaction Working Group.

LLNL Planned Activities
Organize and chair WANDA session on activation libraries
Organize and chair Nuclear Data Week session on and ENDF activation library

B. International Coordination

Members of the USNDP plan an active roll coordinating international reaction evaluation and data preservation activities

BNL Planned Activities
Chair OECD/NEA Working Party on Evaluation Cooperation Subgroup 53 "Stable Zirconium Evaluations and Validation"
{'Chair OECD/NEA Working Party on Evaluation Cooperation Subgroup 54 "Curated EXFOR': 'developing a machine-readable, comprehensive, and corrected by evaluators experimental nuclear reaction database'"} }

C. ENDF Manuals and Documentation

The NNDC is responsible for maintaining the format and procedures manual for the ENDF system as well as producing the documentation supporting the contents of the ENDF/B library.

BNL Planned Activities
Maintain the GitLab version of the ENDF-6 formats manual current with CSEWG-endorsed format changes. Issue official release of the manual.
Automate the generation and posting of the latest unofficial version of the ENDF-6 formats manual.
Collaborate in the development of the format specification for the GNDS (the successor format to ENDF-6) with the legacy ENDF-6 format during the transition to GNDS.

D. ENDF Evaluations

Evaluated nuclear reaction data, for applications and basic science needs, are stored in the ENDF database, which is maintained by BNL. As Chair of the CSEWG Evaluation Committee, LANL staff works with BNL to ensure quality control, particularly for new evaluations. New evaluations funded primarily from other sources are prepared for archival in the ENDF library. BNL, LANL, LLNL and ORNL provided neutron, proton, and photonuclear reaction data evaluations.

BNL Planned Activities
Respond to user needs for evaluated nuclear reaction data.
Collect and address users feedback related to the ENDF library.

Coordinate the evaluations for Zr isotopes to support new reactor fuel concepts.
Work with CSEWG on upgraded evaluations for future release of the ENDF/B library.
Improve methodology for providing covariance data in the resonance and fast neutron region to the next release of ENDF.
Update the Decay Data Sub-library as new data for neutron-rich nuclides become available.
Improve methodology for generating unresolved resonance region cross section probability distributions.
Maintain the Atlas of Neutron Resonances electronic files in preparation for a future update of the Atlas of Neutron Resonances. Continue working on the use of ML techniques to better determine resonance properties.
Contribute to the Fission Yield evaluation CRP at the IAEA.

LANL Planned Activities
Upgrade the LANL ENDF evaluations for actinides as well as some other materials in the intermediate mass region, which perform well in criticality benchmarks, including new theoretical development of statistical models for deformed systems. Close collaboration with international nuclear data library activities at IAEA and OECD/NEA.
Provide new evaluations of the prompt and delayed neutron and photon multiplicities as well as their energy spectra for both major and minor actinides, which are consistent with the fission product yield evaluations.
Improve fission cross section calculations that maintain consistency across the actinide mass numbers.
Improve nuclear data of photon-induced reactions for medium to heavy nuclides with particular focuses on the pre-equilibrium process.
Improve calculations for neutron-induced charged-particle reactions in collaboration with LENZ/LANSCE, and produce evaluated files based on these experimental data.

LBNL Planned Activities
Supporting ENDF via contribution to the Gamma-Rays Induced by Neutrons (GRIN) collaboration. Efforts include the capture-gamma database, pyEGAF, described in a corresponding reference article (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2023.168715).
Developing the pyGammaRad python package for Gamma-Ray Angular Distributions calculations to generate tabulated data in machine-readable CSV and JSON formats suitable for ML applications.
Working with IAEA "Charged-particle cross section database for medical radioisotope production" CRP group for selection of new reaction monitor standards for upcoming database update..

LLNL Planned Activities
Perform new evaluations as per LLNL customer requests and submit these as well as other LLNL-generated evaluations into ENDF.
Perform evaluations for Y and Zr isotopes for a possible activation (sub)library, including data from LLNL surrogate measurements.
Verify R-matrix fits for ${}^6\text{Li}(n,t)$ and ${}^{10}\text{B}(n,\alpha)$ standards reactions
Participate in IAEA standards meetings and review impact of changes in standard cross sections for LLNL applications.

E. Neutron-induced g-Ray Data Evaluation

LBNL Planned Activities
Continue updating the Inelastic Scattering of Reactor Fast Neutrons Database (e.g., the “Baghdad Atlas”) with modern ENSDF data, as a validation database for (n,n’gamma) as well as with new sources of energy differential (n,n’gamma) data.
Start benchmarking reaction modeling codes, including Talys and EMPIRE. This work will be performed in collaboration with researchers from the IAEA and LANL.
Explore the role of quasi-continuum contributions through collaboration with researchers from LLNL and the University of Oslo.
Model neutron-induced reactions combine with detector response and radiation transport simulations to extract optical-model and other reaction parameters via the forward-modeling process.

F. Nuclear Model Development

This task covers activities, such as the development and validation of nuclear reaction models, used for prediction of nuclear reaction cross sections. The two major codes are CoH3 (LANL) and EMPIRE (BNL). Measurements made by ANL, LANL and LBNL, along with other measurements made with DOE low-energy physics funds, will play a crucial role in the validation of the models in these computer codes. LANL participates in the IAEA Coordinated Research Project RIPL that improves the accuracy and reliability of input parameters used in nuclear reaction calculations.

LANL Planned Activities
Continue to develop a microscopic description of the fission process based on penetrability calculations through multi-dimensional potential energy surface. Implement the theory into the Hauser-Feshbach code to calculate all fission-related observables in a common framework.
Continue to develop a coupled-channels Hauser-Feshbach method for better prediction of neutron-induced reactions on deformed nuclei, where fluctuation of the cross sections is properly treated by the Random Matrix Theory.
Continue to develop the Hauser-Feshbach fission fragment decay code for evaluating major actinides, which has a unique capability to produce all the fission observables simultaneously.
Develop a new technique to calculate the probability table for the Monte Carlo transport simulations based on the Gaussian Orthogonal Ensemble.

G. Nuclear Reaction Data Measurements

BNL Planned Activities
Measure product yields at NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) for reactions relevant for space applications.

LANL Planned Activities
Publish reports on cross sections of $^{40}\text{K}(n,p)$ and $^{40}\text{K}(n,a)$ reactions for the neutron energy range of 0.1 - 6.0 MeV.

Finalize double-differential cross sections of ^{65}Zn in respect to incoming neutron energies and outgoing particles angles for the neutron energy range of 0.5 - 20 MeV.
Perform analyses of angular distributions and energy spectra for stable Cu and Zn using the neutron-induced charged particle emitting reaction data obtained using LENZ
Continue to develop Machine-Learning analysis tools to improve systematic uncertainties and restore imperfect signals in measurement data sets
Continue to provide angular distributions of the $^{16}\text{O}(n,\alpha)$ reaction using SREFT, Time Projection Chamber, at LANSCE.
Work on development of experimental capability for measuring nuclear reactions on radionuclides

LBLN Planned Activities
Perform reaction using the LBNL 88-Inch cyclotron and DT-API neutron generator on the UC Berkeley campus. This includes neutron scattering using the GENESIS and NEXUS array in collaboration with the NNSA, stopping power measurements with the Missile Defense Agency, activation/cross section measurements with the DOE Isotope Program and integral fusion materials testing with DOE and corporate partners.

H. Astrophysics Nuclear Data Needs

The objective of this activity is to support the nuclear data needs of the increasingly sophisticated simulations of astrophysical phenomena.

ANL Planned Activities
Provide recently compiled and evaluated nuclear data of nuclear physics properties for astrophysics modeling at FRIB.

BNL Planned Activities
Evaluate nuclear astrophysics potential of EXFOR library.

LANL Planned Activities
Work on improvement of neutron capture, beta-delayed neutron and fission modelings for astrophysical hydrodynamics simulations.
Work on Monte Carlo simulation effort using Geant4, to implement radioactive nuclear reaction studies at Time of Flight facilities, in the interest of providing improved neutron reaction rates on radionuclides.
Develop network calculations for nucleosynthesis of heavy elements by implementing newly updated experimental reaction rates in relevant astrophysical scenarios.

ORNL Planned Activities
Continue assessments of nuclear data needs for astrophysics measurements. Participate in discussions with the nuclear astrophysics group at ORNL

TUNL Planned Activities
Contribute a small effort for the 2025 Experimental Thermonuclear Reaction Rates library (ETR-2025) by evaluating astrophysical reaction rates for some nuclei. An update underway and a publication is planned.

I. Covariances Development

LBNL Planned Activities
Continue to develop an experimentally driven fission covariance database

J. Reactor Antineutrino Spectra and Decay Heat Calculations

BNL Planned Activities
Improve our methods and databases to calculate anti-neutrino spectra for major actinides.
Perform decay-heat calculations in collaboration with experimental groups.
Contribute to relevant experiments.

K. Verification and Validation

Quality Assurance (QA) of a nuclear data library requires that all files are checked for integral consistency and conformance with the adopted format. This part of the QA is called verification and is one of the fundamental functions of the NNDC. Furthermore, checking performance of the library against the integral experiments, known as validation, is also an important step to ensure the usefulness of the library for the end-users. The most extensive validation is performed by LANL and other CSEWG contributors funded with non-DOE-SC sources. The USNDP supports the ultimate validation effort carried out at BNL.

BNL Planned Activities
Maintain automatic, real-time verification and validation of new/modified ENDF evaluations submitted to the NNDC GitLab server.