

Sean Sullivan, Chairman
Bruce Hamilton, Vice Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Daniel J. Santos
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



July 27, 2017

Mr. James McConnell
Associate Administrator for Safety,
Infrastructure, and Operations, NNSA
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Mr. McConnell:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is holding a public hearing at the Board's Washington, DC, headquarters on September 13, 2017, to discuss the status of emergency management across the Department of Energy's (DOE) defense nuclear facilities (DNF). This hearing will focus on actions DOE has taken in response to the Board's Recommendation 2014-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response*, and any other DOE actions to improve DNF complex emergency management.

We invite you or your designee to appear at the hearing to present DOE's actions in these areas. Your participation will provide us with valuable information in support of our mission to ensure adequate protection of the public and worker safety at DOE's DNFs. The format for this hearing will include you or your designee responding to questions from Board Members.

The current proposed agenda for the hearing is enclosed. The Board will post the agenda on its web page, <http://www.dnfsb.gov>, and will update the agenda periodically as it finalizes preparations for the hearing.

Your staff may contact our Technical Director, Mr. Steven Stokes, to make the necessary arrangements for attendance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Sullivan", written over a white background.

Sean Sullivan
Chairman

Enclosure

c: Mr. Joe Olencz

Proposed Agenda

DNFSB Public Hearing on Board Recommendation 2014-1

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Location: DNFSB Headquarters, Washington, DC

Proposed Date: September 13, 2017 (subject to DOE's availability)

Goal: (Per approved request for Board action, document #2017-300-055) The Board will conduct a hearing on the Department of Energy's (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) progress in addressing concerns identified in Board Recommendation 2014-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response*. The Board will seek to gather insights on progress in addressing the specific sub-recommendations:

- “1. In its role as a regulator, by the end of 2016, standardize and improve implementation of its criteria and review approach to confirm that all sites with defense nuclear facilities:
 - a. Have a robust emergency response infrastructure that is survivable, habitable, and maintained to function during emergencies, including severe events that can impact multiple facilities and potentially overwhelm emergency response resources.
 - b. Have a training and drill program that ensures that emergency response personnel are fully competent in accordance with the expectations delineated in DOE's directive and associated guidance.
 - c. Are conducting exercises that fully demonstrate their emergency response is capable of responding to scenarios that challenge existing capability, including their response during severe events.
 - d. Are identifying deficiencies with emergency preparedness and response, conducting causal analysis, developing and implementing effective corrective actions to address these deficiencies, and evaluating the effectiveness of these actions.
 - e. Have an effective Readiness Assurance Program consistent with DOE Order 151.IC, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*, Chapter X.
2. Update its emergency management directive to address:
 - a. Severe events, including requirements that address hazards assessments and exercises, and “beyond design basis” operational and natural phenomena events.
 - b. Reliability and habitability of emergency response facilities and support equipment.
 - c. Criteria for training and drills, including requirements that address facility conduct of operations drill programs and the interface with emergency response organization team drills.
 - d. Criteria for exercises to ensure that they are an adequate demonstration of proficiency.
 - e. Vulnerabilities identified during independent assessments.”

The Secretary’s Session –12:00-12:45 pm: Secretary of Energy’s position on Defense Nuclear Facilities Emergency Preparedness

- 12:00 pm Chairman’s Introduction of the Secretary Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 12:05 pm Secretary of Energy’s Statement and Discussion The Honorable James Richard Perry

Session 1 – 12:45-2:15 pm: Implementation of Recommendation 2014-1

Panel Objective: Provide an opportunity for DOE and NNSA to update the Board and the public on their plans and progress in addressing the field and headquarters emergency management operations, including readiness assurance.

Suggested Panelists
NNSA Administrator, NA-1
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, EM-1
Director, Office of Enterprise Assessments, EA-1

- 12:45 pm Chairman’s Opening Remarks Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 12:50 pm Board Member Remarks Board Members
- 12:55 pm Seat Panel Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 1:00 pm Introduce Panel Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 1:05 pm Panel Discussion
- 2:15 pm Break

Session 2 – 2:30-4:00 pm: Implementation of Recommendation 2014-1

Panel Objective: Inform the Board and the public on progress in addressing the specific sub-recommendations. Discuss how DOE is validating that it is effectively implementing the emergency management improvements at each defense nuclear site.

Suggested Panelists
Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations, NA-40
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, EM-3.1
Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure and Operations, NA-50
NNSA site Field Office Manager (chosen by DOE)
EM site Field Office Manager (chosen by DOE)

- 2:30 pm Resume/Seat Panel Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 2:35 pm Introduce Panel Chairman Sean Sullivan
- 2:40 pm Panel Discussion

Closing – 4:00-4:30 pm: Public Comments and Wrap-up

4:00 pm	Public Comment Period ¹	
4:20 pm	Board Member Closing Remarks	Board Members
4:25 pm	Chairman’s Closing Remarks	Chairman Sean Sullivan
4:30 pm	Adjourn	

¹ The Public Comment period may be extended if necessary. The Board specifically reserves its right to further schedule and otherwise regulate the course of business of this hearing, to recess, reconvene, postpone, or adjourn the hearing. The Board may exercise its discretion to consider agenda items prior to or after their scheduled time or to change the order of agenda items.

[†]The DNFSB provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in this hearing, or if a meeting notice, transcript, or other information from this meeting is needed in another format (e.g., Braille, large print). Please notify the DNFSB meeting contact. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.