

1 "and enhance the safety of operations of DOE's nuclear
2 facilities and to restore public confidence that these
3 facilities are operated without undue risk to public
4 health and safety."

5 These hearings are in accordance with that
6 mandate from the Congress, and we are holding these
7 public hearings in order to ensure the public that we
8 are doing our job, and that the DOE is moving ahead
9 and doing its job in a safe manner. So that is part
10 of the reasons we are holding this series of hearings.

11 Dr. Eggenberger?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN EGGENBERGER: I have no
13 questions at this time. When the first witness
14 appears, I have an extensive line of questioning.

15 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Okay. Dr. Mansfield?

16 DR. MANSFIELD: Nothing at this time.

17 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Dr. Matthews?

18 DR. MATTHEWS: Just a quick comment.

19 First of all, thanks to our colleagues
20 from Pantex and Y-12 for coming today.

21 But I just want to state my overarching
22 issue, which in my mind is the balance between safety
23 and productivity and how much safety oversight is
24 really needed to accomplish the mission efficiently
25 and safely that we all have to -- that you work on.

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1 And I just want to quote from lessons
2 learned from the Columbia accident that I thought was
3 relevant, and I'll just read this. "The human space
4 flight program is comprised of the many redundant
5 processes, checks, and balances that should identify
6 and correct small errors. Redundant systems essential
7 to every high risk enterprise have fallen victim to
8 bureaucratic efficiency. Years of workforce
9 reductions and outsourcing from NASA's [National
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration] workforce, the
11 layers of experience and hands-on systems knowledge
12 that once provided a capacity for safety oversight.
13 Safety and mission assurance personnel have been
14 eliminated, careers in safety have lost organizational
15 prestige, and the program now decides on how much
16 safety and engineering oversight it needs."

17 Sounds sort of similar to some of the
18 policy and the actions that we're hearing out of the
19 Department, and really that the safety and mission
20 responsibilities have been somewhat transferred to the
21 sites. And so, really, I'll be interested in hearing
22 how you folks think about how much safety emphasis is
23 really required to do the mission efficiently. That
24 will be one of the things I'll be looking for during
25 the testimony.

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1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Okay. Our first witness
3 this morning is Dan Glenn, Manager of the Pantex Site
4 Office, who is an employee of DOE/NNSA [National
5 Nuclear Security Administration]. And, Dan, I will
6 put in the record your background, which will go into
7 the record prior to your speaking.

8 Welcome, Dan.

9 MR. GLENN: Thank you, sir.

10 Well, good morning, Mr. Chairman and
11 members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety
12 Board, and members of the audience.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to provide
14 testimony on the Pantex Site Office's current
15 practices for oversight and management of our
16 management and operating contractor activities at the
17 Pantex Plant.

18 Transition from the long-standing roles
19 and responsibilities to the re-engineered NNSA
20 presents some challenges, but these challenges are
21 needed as we strive to improve the effectiveness, the
22 efficiency, and most importantly the safety of our
23 site operations. I fully support the NNSA re-
24 engineering effort and believe that the appropriate
25 level of contractor oversight to ensure adequate

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