

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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PUBLIC MEETING ON OVERSIGHT

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WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2003

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The Board met in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Hearing Room at 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C., at 9:00 a.m., John T. Conway, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT

JOHN T. CONWAY	Chairman
A.J. EGGENBERGER	Vice Chairman
JOHN E. MANSFIELD	Board Member
R. BRUCE MATTHEWS	Board Member

STAFF PRESENT

RICHARD A. AZZARO	General Counsel
JAMES J. McCONNELL	Deputy Technical Director
KENNETH M. PUSATERI	General Manager

ALSO PRESENT

DANIEL E. GLENN	Manager, Pantex Site Office
MICHAEL B. MALLORY	General Manager, BWXT Pantex, LLC
WILLIAM J. BRUMLY	Manager, Y-12 Site Office
DENNIS R. RUDDY	General Manager, BWXT Y-12, LLC

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I-N-D-E-X

OPENING REMARKS
 Chairman Conway 3

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS
 Dr. Matthews 5

PANTEX PLANT
 Daniel E. Glenn,
 Manager, Pantex Site Office 7
 Michael B. Mallory,
 General Manager, BWXT Pantex, LLC . . 48

Y-12 NATIONAL SECURITY COMPLEX
 William J. Brumley,
 Manager, Y-12 Site Office 87
 Dennis R. Ruddy,
 General Manager, BWXT Y-12, LLC . . 115

PUBLIC COMMENTS
 William L. Hicks 134

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

9:00 a.m.

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2
3 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: The clock here on the
4 wall says 9:00. The *Congressional Record* indicates
5 that we begin at 9:00. And I don't want to relegate
6 or do anything wrong that the *Congressional Record*
7 requires us to do.

8 My name is John Conway. I'm the Chairman
9 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
10 [DNFSB], and I will preside over the continuation of
11 this meeting.

12 Today's meeting and hearing were publicly
13 noticed in *Federal Register* on November 12, 2003. The
14 meeting in hearing are held open to the public in
15 accordance with the provisions of the Government in
16 the Sunshine Act.

17 Today's meeting is an extension of the
18 hearings held on September 10, October 21, and
19 October 23rd and constitutes the fourth in a series
20 during which the Board is examining the Department of
21 Energy's [DOE] current and proposed models of safety
22 oversight and management of the contracts and
23 contractors it relies upon to safely accomplish the
24 mission assigned to DOE under the Atomic Energy Act of
25 1954, as amended. We will focus on DOE's proposed new

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1 initiatives and what impact, if any, they may have
2 upon assuring adequate protection of the health and
3 safety of the public and workers at DOE's defense
4 nuclear facilities.

5 I welcome today's presenters, members of
6 the public, members of the press in our audience, and
7 those viewing our proceeding electronically.

8 I might say that when this Board was first
9 set up by the Congress in its report from the Senate
10 Armed Services Committee, the Board was mandated to
11 take certain actions and do certain things. Among
12 those, according to the report from the Senate Armed
13 Services Committee, the Board is expected: to raise
14 the technical expertise of the Department
15 substantially; to assist and monitor the continued
16 development of DOE's internal ES&H [Environment,
17 Safety and Health] organization, and; to provide
18 independent advice to the Secretary. Above all, the
19 Board should be instrumental in restoring public
20 confidence in DOE's management capabilities; a clear
21 prerequisite for the continued production of the
22 nuclear material vital to the nation's security.

23 They went on to say, "The basic goals in
24 establishing an independent safety oversight board are
25 to assure and enhance" -- and I stress that word --

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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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