

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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TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

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RECORDED - 1
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The Board met in the DNFSB 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 |

ALSO PRESENT

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| RICHARD A. AZZARO | General Counsel |
| BRIG. GEN. RONALD J. HAECKLE | USAF National Nuclear Security Administration |
| J. KENT FORTENBERRY | Technical Director |
| KENNETH M. PUSATERI | General Manager |

ORIGINAL

I-N-D-E-X

Opening Remarks3
 Chairman Conway

NNSA Lessons from the Columbia.4
 Accident Investigation -
 Brigadier General Ronald J. Haeckel, USAF,
 National Nuclear Security Administration,
 Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator
 for Military Application

Final Remarks and Recess. 55
 Chairman Conway

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

8:58 a.m.

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3 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Good morning,
4 everybody. Today's meeting and hearing was publicly
5 noticed in the Federal Register on January 12th,
6 2004, and is a meeting and hearing held open to the
7 public in accordance with provisions of the
8 Government in the Sunshine Act.

9 Originally, we were also going to have
10 testimony this morning from the Department of
11 Energy's Office of Environment, Safety and Health
12 [ES&H], but that has been -- that witness has been
13 postponed until Monday, February 9, 2004, and I
14 notice where this change is being placed in the
15 Federal Register today.

16 Today's meeting is an extension of the
17 hearing held on September 10, October 21, 23, and
18 December 3, 4, and 16, and constitutes the seventh in
19 a series during which the Board is examining the
20 Department of Energy's [DOE] current and proposed
21 models of safety oversight in management of the
22 contracts and contractors it relies upon to safely
23 accomplish the mission assigned to DOE under the
24 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

25 We will discuss -- we will focus on DOE's

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

5 I welcome the witness this morning,
6 Brigadier General Ronald J. Haeckel. He is the
7 Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military
8 Application of the National Nuclear Security
9 Administration [NNSA] within the Department of
10 Energy.

11 And with that, we turn to you, General,
12 and, again, I welcome you here this morning.

13 GENERAL HAECKEL: Thank you, sir. I've
14 been fitted for hearing aids that are due to be
15 delivered next month. So [Pointing to own hearing
16 aids] I may ask you to repeat questions if I don't
17 catch all the words, but I apologize for that.

18 DR. MANSFIELD: I have sympathy for you.

19 (Laughter.)

20 GENERAL HAECKEL: Mr. Chairman and
21 Members
22 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, thank
23 you for this opportunity to provide you with an
24 interim report of the National Nuclear Security
25 Administration's review of the Columbia Accident

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