

OPENING STATEMENT OF
JOHN T. CONWAY, CHAIRMAN
FEBRUARY 9, 2004, DOE OVERSIGHT

MY NAME IS JOHN CONWAY. I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD, AND I WILL PRESIDE OVER THE CONTINUATION OF THIS MEETING.

TODAY'S MEETING AND HEARING WERE PUBLICLY NOTICED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON JANUARY 12, 2004. TODAY'S RESCHEDULED TESTIMONY WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED AT OUR SEVENTH HEARING ON FEBRUARY 3 AND ALSO NOTICED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON FEBRUARY 4, 2004. THE MEETING AND HEARING ARE HELD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE ACT.

TODAY'S MEETING IS AN EXTENSION OF THE HEARINGS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, OCTOBER 21 AND 23; DECEMBER 3, 4, AND 16; AND FEBRUARY 3, AND CONSTITUTES THE EIGHTH IN A SERIES DURING WHICH THE BOARD IS EXAMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S CURRENT AND PROPOSED MODELS OF SAFETY OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CONTRACTS AND CONTRACTORS IT RELIES UPON TO SAFELY ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION ASSIGNED TO DOE UNDER THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT OF 1954, AS AMENDED. WE WILL FOCUS ON DOE'S PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES AND WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, THEY MAY HAVE UPON ASSURING ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AND WORKERS AT DOE'S DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. TODAY, THE BOARD WILL HEAR FROM DOE'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, AND HEALTH CONCERNING ITS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE OVERSIGHT PROCESS OF DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. I WELCOME TODAY'S PRESENTER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY COOK, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN OUR AUDIENCE, AND THOSE VIEWING OUR PROCEEDING ELECTRONICALLY.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD'S PRACTICE, AND AS STATED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE, WE WILL WELCOME COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE CONCLUSION OF TESTIMONY. THIS CONCLUDES MY OPENING REMARKS.