

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

Washington, DC

May 10, 2004



The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to announce the assignment of Mr. Michael Merritt as the Board's Site Representative at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in California. This assignment will serve to establish an on-site office for the Board to oversee nuclear safety at LLNL.

As the Board's Site Representative, Mr. Merritt will advise the Board with regard to the overall safety conditions at the LLNL defense nuclear facilities, and will participate in the conduct of reviews and evaluations by the Board related to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities. Mr. Merritt will also assess the adequacy of LLNL's support for the nuclear weapons complex Stockpile Stewardship Program. Additionally, Mr. Merritt will act as the Board's liaison with the Department of Energy and LLNL management, federal, state and local agencies, the public, and industry officials.

Mr. Merritt joined the Board in October 1992. Since joining the Board, Mr. Merritt's assignments have included safety oversight responsibilities for the safe processing and stabilization of plutonium at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, and the Hanford Site in Washington. Mr. Merritt was also responsible for the implementation of the Board's recommendations requiring complex-wide nuclear material stabilization, including the safe restart of F-Canyon and H-Canyon at the Savannah River Site. Mr. Merritt also led complex-wide safety reviews of tritium processing and handling. Most recently, Mr. Merritt served as the Board's cognizant engineer for activities at the LLNL where he conducted facility safety reviews at the Plutonium Facility, the Heavy Element Facility, and transuranic waste processing and storage facilities.

Prior to joining the Board Mr. Merritt was a Senior Nuclear Engineer at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory's (KAPL) Kesselring Site in upstate New York where he supported refueling, overhaul, maintenance, and modification to the Naval Reactor's prototype nuclear reactors. Also at KAPL, Mr. Merritt served as a radiation shielding engineer and a radiological engineering instructor. Prior to his assignment at KAPL, Mr. Merritt was a Nuclear Construction Engineer at the General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division's shipyard in Groton, Connecticut where he supported the construction of nuclear reactors for Ohio Class (Trident) submarines.

Mr. Merritt earned a masters degree in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a bachelors degree in Ocean Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology. During the summer of 2004, Mr. Merritt will establish the site office at LLNL and will transition from his present assignment at headquarters to a full time position at LLNL. Mr. Merritt and his wife Lynn plan to reside in the Tri-Valley area.