

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.

ORIGINAL

PRESENT

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

RECEIVED  
NOVEMBER 13 PM 4:02  
JOHN T. CONWAY

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

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

9:00 a.m.

1  
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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