

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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PUBLIC MEETING

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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2003

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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

STAFF PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

JESSIE ROBERSON	Asst. Secretary, Environmental Management, DOE
JEFFERY M. ALLISON	Manager, DOE, Savannah River Operations Office
KEITH A. KLEIN	Manager, DOE, Richland Operations Office
FRAZER R. LOCKHART	Manager, DOE, Rocky Flats Field Office

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ROY J. SCHEPENS	Manager, DOE, Office of River Protection
EDWARD S. AROMI, JR.	President & General Manager, C2HM Hill Hanford Group, Inc.
RONALD G. GALLAGHER	President & CEO, Fluor-Hanford, Inc., Prime Contractor
JAMES P. HENSCHL	Project Director, Bechtel National, Inc., Contractor
ALAN M. PARKER	President & CEO, Kaiser-Hill Company
ROBERT A. PEDDE	President, Westinghouse Savannah River Co.

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

8:58 a.m.

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3 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Ladies and gentlemen,
4 if you would take your seats, we are prepared to
5 begin. Today's meeting is an extension of the
6 hearings held on September 10th, October 21st,
7 October 23rd, and December 3rd, and constitutes the
8 fifth in a series during which the Board is examining
9 the DOE's [Department of Energy] current and proposed
10 models of safety oversight and management of the
11 contracts and contractors it relies upon to safely
12 accomplish the mission assigned to DOE under the
13 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. We will focus
14 on DOE's proposed new initiatives, and what impact,
15 if any, they may have upon assuring adequate
16 protection of the health and safety of the public and
17 the workers at DOE's defense nuclear facilities.

18 I welcome today's presenters, members of
19 the public, members of the press in our audience, and
20 those viewing our proceedings electronically.
21 Yesterday, before we began, I took time to refer to
22 the Congressional mandate given to the Board when
23 this Board, nearly 15 years ago, first came into
24 being. At that time, in reporting out the
25 legislation that established the Board, the Senate

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1 Armed Services Committee made reference to the goals
2 that they were setting for the Board. The "basic
3 goals," and I'm quoting now from its report, "The
4 basic goals in establishing an independent safety
5 oversight board are to assure and enhance the safety
6 of operations of DOE's nuclear facilities, and to
7 restore public confidence that these facilities are
8 operated without undue risk to public health and
9 safety."

10 Now the report set forth, of course, a
11 number of responsibilities given to the Board, but
12 the report also went on to say, "Above all, the Board
13 should be instrumental in restoring public confidence
14 in DOE's management capabilities, a clear
15 prerequisite for the continued production of the
16 nuclear materials vital to the nation's security."

17 So it's in light of the mandate given to
18 the Board that we are holding the hearings today, in
19 public, and to meet these goals set by the Congress
20 for the Board.

21 With that, we will begin. We welcome the
22 witnesses here this morning. But before that, I'll
23 ask the other Board members if they have anything
24 they wish to say. Dr. Eggenberger?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN EGGENBERGER: Mr. Chairman,

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