

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. § 552b), notice is hereby given of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) second meeting in a series, described below, regarding DOE's standards-based safety management program.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., July 18, 1995.

PLACE: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Public Hearing Room, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Board will reconvene and continue the open meeting conducted on May 31, 1995, regarding DOE's standards-based safety management program. 42 U.S.C. § 2286b requires that the Board review and evaluate the content and implementation of standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy. Those standards include rules, DOE safety Orders, and other requirements. The Board, acting pursuant to its enabling statute, has issued a series of Recommendations (most notably 90-2 and 94-5) designed to foster the development of an effective standards-based nuclear safety program within DOE. The Secretary of Energy has accepted each of these Recommendations. In the meantime, DOE is engaged in a number of initiatives designed to simplify existing safety Orders and the promulgation of new rules. The Secretary of Energy's commitment to implementing Board recommendations calling for an effective standards-based safety program will require careful integration with these recent DOE

initiatives. The Board will hold a public meeting to consider the essential elements of a safety management program that is standards-based and to review DOE's progress in developing such a program.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kenneth M. Pusateri, General Manager, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004, (800) 788-4016. This is a toll free number.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The Board has a responsibility for oversight of DOE's development of nuclear health and safety requirements as the transition is being made from the use of safety Orders to rules. The Board understands the reasons for development and promulgation of nuclear safety requirements through rulemaking and is concerned that the conversion process not compromise the requirements-based safety program now embodied in the DOE's safety Orders. The Board's most recent effort to ensure that the "good engineering practices" codified in DOE's safety Orders are maintained was expressed in its Recommendation 94-5, dated December 29, 1994. In that Recommendation, the Board noted the results of its review of selected DOE contracts and DOE advisories and stated, among other things, that:

The provisions [of these DOE contracts and advisories by DOE management] indicate that the integrated use of nuclear safety-related Rules, Orders, standards and guides in defining and executing DOE's safety management program may not be sufficiently well understood by either the M & O contractors or DOE managers. This issue was raised in the Board's letter of May 6, 1994 to the Department of Energy.

Given the situation as described above, the Board believes that further DOE actions are needed to ensure there is no relaxation of commitments made to achieve compliance with requirements in Orders while proposed rules are undergoing the development process. These actions should also provide for smooth transition of Orders to rules once promulgated.

Recommendation 94-5, in its entirety, is on file in DOE's Public Reading Rooms, at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Washington office, and on the Internet through access to the Board's electronic bulletin board at the following address: gopher://gopher.dnfsb.gov:7070. It is also set forth in the *Federal Register* at 60 FR 2089.

In accord with the statute establishing the Board, a public meeting will be conducted to lay the groundwork for a full assessment of how Standards/Requirements Identification Documents (S/RIDs), rules, Orders, and other safety requirements are integrated into an overall safety management program for defense nuclear facilities. To assist the Board and inform the public, individual Board members will present their views, and the Board's staff will brief the Board on related topics, including, but not limited to the following:

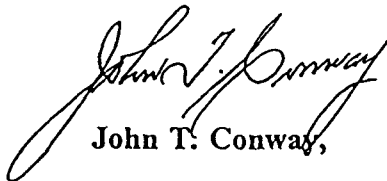
1. Status of staff reviews of DOE revisions to safety Orders and rules.
2. Approaches to development and implementation of standards-based safety programs for DOE nuclear weapons research and development activities.

A transcript of this proceeding will be made available by the Board for inspection by the public at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Washington office.

The Board also intends to notice and further conduct public hearings pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b, at a later date, to assess the Department of Energy's (DOE) progress in implementing an effective standards-based safety program for DOE's defense nuclear facilities and to assure that DOE's activities in streamlining DOE's nuclear safety order system and converting to a regulatory program do not eliminate the engineering practices now codified in DOE's safety Orders that are necessary to adequately protect public health and safety.

The Board reserves its right to further schedule and otherwise regulate the course of these meetings and hearings, to recess, reconvene, postpone or adjourn the meeting, and otherwise exercise its power under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Dated: June 21, 1995

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John T. Conway".

John T. Conway,

Chairman