

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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TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

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RECORDED - 1  
INDEXED - 1  
FEB 11 11:14 AM '04

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

ALSO PRESENT

RICHARD A. AZZARO	General Counsel
BRIG. GEN. RONALD J. HAECKLE	USAF National Nuclear Security Administration
J. KENT FORTENBERRY	Technical Director
KENNETH M. PUSATERI	General Manager

ORIGINAL

I-N-D-E-X

Opening Remarks . . . . .3  
 Chairman Conway

NNSA Lessons from the Columbia. . . . .4  
 Accident Investigation -  
 Brigadier General Ronald J. Haeckel, USAF,  
 National Nuclear Security Administration,  
 Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator  
 for Military Application

Final Remarks and Recess. . . . . 55  
 Chairman Conway

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

8:58 a.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Good morning,  
4 everybody. Today's meeting and hearing was publicly  
5 noticed in the Federal Register on January 12th,  
6 2004, and is a meeting and hearing held open to the  
7 public in accordance with provisions of the  
8 Government in the Sunshine Act.

9 Originally, we were also going to have  
10 testimony this morning from the Department of  
11 Energy's Office of Environment, Safety and Health  
12 [ES&H], but that has been -- that witness has been  
13 postponed until Monday, February 9, 2004, and I  
14 notice where this change is being placed in the  
15 Federal Register today.

16 Today's meeting is an extension of the  
17 hearing held on September 10, October 21, 23, and  
18 December 3, 4, and 16, and constitutes the seventh in  
19 a series during which the Board is examining the  
20 Department of Energy's [DOE] current and proposed  
21 models of safety oversight in management of the  
22 contracts and contractors it relies upon to safely  
23 accomplish the mission assigned to DOE under the  
24 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

25 We will discuss -- we will focus on DOE's

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1 proposed new initiatives and what impact, if any,  
2 they may have upon assuring adequate protection of  
3 health and safety of the public and workers at DOE's  
4 defense nuclear facilities.

5 I welcome the witness this morning,  
6 Brigadier General Ronald J. Haeckel. He is the  
7 Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military  
8 Application of the National Nuclear Security  
9 Administration [NNSA] within the Department of  
10 Energy.

11 And with that, we turn to you, General,  
12 and, again, I welcome you here this morning.

13 GENERAL HAECKEL: Thank you, sir. I've  
14 been fitted for hearing aids that are due to be  
15 delivered next month. So [Pointing to own hearing  
16 aids] I may ask you to repeat questions if I don't  
17 catch all the words, but I apologize for that.

18 DR. MANSFIELD: I have sympathy for you.

19 (Laughter.)

20 GENERAL HAECKEL: Mr. Chairman and  
21 Members  
22 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, thank  
23 you for this opportunity to provide you with an  
24 interim report of the National Nuclear Security  
25 Administration's review of the Columbia Accident

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