

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING ON OVERSIGHT

MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 9, 2004

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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
R. BRUCE MATTHEWS	Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

BEVERLY A. COOK	Department of Energy, Asst. Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health
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AGENDA ITEM

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

8:56 a.m.

MS. COOK: Hello. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: I'm watching the clock.

MS. COOK: You can see the clock. I can't.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: See that? Okay. You want to make your announcement?

MR. DELOACH: Another minute, sir, and your mikes are all right?

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Yes, yes.

MS. COOK: That is the thing I enjoyed most about working here at the Defense Board, was that things were on time.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: We try to keep them on time.

MS. COOK: I'm used to things being on time.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Oh, yes.

MS. COOK: It frustrates me when they are not.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Yes.

COURT REPORTER: If everybody could, please, turn off their cell phones, pagers, any noise making devices. Okay.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Thank you. Okay.

1 Today's meeting and hearing were publicly noticed in
2 the Federal Register on January 12, 2004. Today's
3 rescheduled testimony was publicly announced at our
4 seventh hearing on February 3rd and also noticed in the
5 Federal Register on February 4, 2004. The meeting and
6 hearing are held open to the public in accordance with
7 the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

8 Today's meeting is an extension of the
9 hearings held on September 10th; October 21st and 23rd;
10 December 3rd, 4th, and 16th; and February 3rd, and
11 constitutes the eighth in a series during which the
12 Board is examining the Department of Energy's current
13 and proposed models of safety oversight and management
14 of the contracts and contractors it relies upon to
15 safely accomplish the mission assigned to DOE
16 [Department of Energy] under the Atomic Energy Act of
17 1954, as amended.

18 We will focus on DOE's proposed new
19 initiatives and what impact, if any, they may have upon
20 assuring adequate protection of the health and safety
21 of the public and workers at DOE's defense nuclear
22 facilities. Today, the Board will hear from DOE's
23 Office of Environment, Safety and Health [EH]
24 concerning its roles and responsibilities in the
25 oversight process of defense nuclear facilities. I

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1 welcome today's presenter, Assistant Secretary Cook,
2 members of the public, members of the press in our
3 audience, and those viewing our proceedings
4 electronically.

5 In accordance with the Board's practice,
6 and as stated in the Federal Register notice, we will
7 welcome comments from interested members of the public
8 at the conclusion of the testimony, and that concludes
9 my opening remarks. Dr. Eggenberger?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN EGGENBERGER: I have no
11 questions at this time.

12 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Okay. Questions?

13 DR. MATTHEWS: No, no questions at this
14 time. I think I'm okay.

15 CHAIRMAN CONWAY: With that, Bev, we turn
16 to you.

17 MS. COOK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
18 members of the Board, for the opportunity to address
19 you today. You have invited me to speak on roles and
20 responsibilities of the Office of Environment, Safety
21 and Health in the oversight process. But in keeping
22 with some of the questions you have sent to me, I would
23 like to expand my remarks somewhat to the role of EH in
24 assuring safety operations of the Department of Energy.

25 I will speak to both of my role personally, and also

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