

## **DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

Notice is hereby given of an open meeting of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) with representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the Department's standards-based safety management program. The purpose of the meeting is twofold: (1) for DOE to provide information to the Board regarding the status of DOE's review and revision of nuclear safety Orders and rules, and (2) to allow the Deputy Secretary of Energy to obtain the preliminary advice of individual Board members in identifying any significant safety issues raised by the Board's review of draft revisions to date. No Board decision will be reached, nor will agency business be finally disposed of during the session. This meeting is noticed pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. § 552b), notice of the open meeting is a part of the Board's continuing effort to inform the public regarding DOE's standards-based safety management program.

**TIME AND DATE:** 10:00 a.m., September 20, 1995.

**PLACE:** The Department of Energy, Room 8E-089, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The Board and the Deputy Secretary of Energy will convene a joint consultative session regarding DOE's standards-based safety management program. 42 U.S.C. § 2286b requires the Board to continuously review and evaluate the content and implementation of standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities of DOE. 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 to promulgate new and more effective safety rules. The Secretary of Energy's commitment to implementing Board recommendations calling for an effective standards-based safety management program will require careful integration with these recent DOE initiatives. The Board has already held two open Board meetings regarding its review of DOE efforts to revise and improve nuclear safety requirements. This will be the third session in that series. Since the Board's statutory responsibility for oversight of nuclear safety standards for DOE facilities is a continuing one, additional meetings are anticipated.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Robert M. Andersen, General Counsel, 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:** DOE has the responsibility to conduct its operations in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment. One of the ways that DOE accomplishes this is through its rules, orders, and directives systems, which directly govern the conduct of DOE's defense nuclear activities.

The Board has a responsibility for oversight of DOE's development of nuclear health and safety requirements at defense nuclear facilities. DOE is now embarked upon a transition from the use of safety Orders to rules to manage its requirements-based safety program. 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

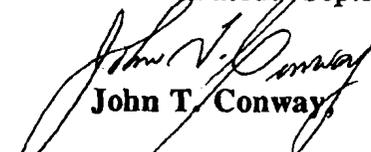
December 29, 1994. Recommendation 94-5, in its entirety, is on file in DOE's Public Reading Rooms, at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Washington office, and on the Internet through access to the Board's electronic bulletin board at the following address: [gopher://gopher.dnfsb.gov:7070](mailto:gopher://gopher.dnfsb.gov:7070). It is also set forth in the *Federal Register* at 60 FR 2089.

The Deputy Secretary of Energy seeks early notice of any safety issues which the Board may have identified in the draft revised rules and Orders. In accord with the statute establishing the Board, a public session will be conducted in which individual Board members may provide preliminary advice to the Deputy Secretary on matters needing further DOE review and to receive information from DOE on how rules, Orders, and other safety requirements are being revised and integrated into an overall safety management program for defense nuclear facilities.

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 conduct further public hearings pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b, at a later date, to assess DOE's 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 its safety Orders that are necessary to adequately protect public health and safety.

Dated: September 8, 1995

  
John T. Conway  
Chairman