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

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

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

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

VICE CHAIRMAN EGGENBERGER: Mr. Chairman,
in light that we have a rather ambitious schedule today, I'll hold my remarks to the witnesses.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Dr. Mansfield?

DR. MANSFIELD: As will I.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Dr. Matthews?

DR. MATTHEWS: Just quickly, I want to thank the presenters for taking the time to come here, and just to put it in context that my real issue in this is the age-old problem of balancing productivity and safety. And particularly in the world of accelerated clean-up, I think that is the hot issue, so I'll be looking for that in your testimony. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: And I might say that for each witness that appears before us this morning, we have an autobiography which we will submit, put in the record, preceding each of your testimonies, and with that, I'll turn to Mr. Jeffrey Allison, the Manager of Savannah River Operations Office for the Department of Energy. Mr. Allison.

MR. ALLISON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. I'm Jeffrey Allison, the Manager of the Savannah River Operations Office, and I appreciate the opportunity to talk to you today concerning safety oversight at the Savannah River