DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING ON OVERSIGHT

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2003

The meeting was held at 9:00 a.m., in the DNFSB Hearing Room, 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C., 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

STAFF PRESENT:

RICHARD A. AZZARO, General Counsel
J. KENT FORTENBERRY, Technical Director
KENNETH M. PUSATERI, General Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

MICHAEL R. ANASTASIO, Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
RALPH E. ERICKSON, Manager, Los Alamos Site Office
GEORGE PETER NANOS, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory
CAMILLE C. YUAN-SOO HOO, Manager, Livermore Site Office
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Chairman Conway
P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(8:57 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Today's meeting and hearing were publicly noticed in the Federal Register on November 28th. The meeting and hearing are held open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

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

The Board will focus on DOE's proposed new initiatives and what impact, if any, they may have upon assuring adequate protection of the health and safety of the public and the workers at DOE's defense nuclear facilities.

I welcome today's presenters, members of the public, members of the press in our audience, and
those viewing our proceedings electronically.

In accordance with the Board's practice, and as stated in the Federal Register, we will welcome comments from interested members of the public at the completion of the -- at the conclusion of today's testimony.

This concludes my opening remarks.

Dr. Eggenberger?

VICE CHAIRMAN EGGENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I really don't have any remarks, except I would like to say that I'm very interested in hearing the testimony today, because in my view, the Laboratories are a most important part of the weapons complex, and appropriate oversight of the Laboratories by the Department is very important.

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Thank you.

Dr. Mansfield?

DR. MANSFIELD: No, nothing.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: All right. Dr. Bruce Matthews?

DR. MATTHEWS: No comments.

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Very good. And with that, we are pleased now to welcome Admiral Pete Nanos and Ralph Erickson. Ralph Erickson is the Director of