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,
pressing.

PRESENT:
JOHN T. CONWAY Chairman
A.J. EGGENBERGER Vice Chairman
R. BRUCE MATTHEWS Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:
RICHARD A. AZZARO General Counsel
J. KENT FORTEJBERRY 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

NEAL R. GROSS
COURT REPORTERS AND TRAN. CRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 3701
(202) 234-4433
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPENING REMARKS:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSPECTIVE ON DOE IMPLEMENTATION:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly A. Cook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL REMARKS AND RECESS:</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman Conway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
Today's meeting and hearing were publicly noticed in the Federal Register on January 12, 2004. Today's rescheduled testimony was publicly announced at our seventh hearing on February 3rd and also noticed in the Federal Register on February 4, 2004. 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 10th; October 21st and 23rd; December 3rd, 4th, and 16th; and February 3rd, and constitutes the eighth in a series during which the Board is examining the Department of Energy's 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 [Department of Energy] under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

We 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 workers at DOE's defense nuclear facilities. Today, the Board will hear from DOE's Office of Environment, Safety and Health [EH] concerning its roles and responsibilities in the oversight process of defense nuclear facilities. I
welcome today's presenter, Assistant Secretary Cook, 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 notice, we will welcome comments from interested members of the public at the conclusion of the testimony, and that concludes my opening remarks. Dr. Eggenberger?

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

CHAIRMAN CONWAY: Okay. Questions?

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

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

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

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