## In the Matter of:

## Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

June 3, 2015 Closed Board Meeting

**Condensed Transcript with Word Index** 



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1	•	1	CLOSED BOARD MEETING
1 2		2	
3	DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD	3	(3:02 p.m.)
4		4	MR. SANTOS: Good afternoon. My name is Daniel
5		5	Santos, and I'm a member of the Defense Nuclear
6		6	Facilities Safety Board. I will preside over this closed
7		7	meeting. With me today are my colleagues on the Safety
8		8	Board. Seated to my immediate right is Ms. Jessie
9		9	Roberson, the Board's Vice Chairman. Seated to my left
10	CLOSED BOARD MEETING	10	is Mr. Sean Sullivan. We three constitute the Board.
11		11	Also sitting to Mr. Sullivan is John
12		12	Batherson, the Board's Acting General Counsel, who shall
13 14	JUNE 3, 2015	13 14	serve as the Board Executive Secretary for this meeting.  Having established a quorum of three Board
15	3:00 p.m.	15	members, this closed meeting will now come to order.
16	5.00 p.m.	16	This closed meeting was announced on May 18, 2015, on the
17	DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD	17	Board's public website. It was also subsequently noticed
18	625 INDIANA AVENUE, NW	18	in the Federal Register on May 20th and May 26th, 2015.
19	ROOM 425	19	The meeting is closed to the public per the
20	WASHINGTON, DC 20004	20	provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, also
21		21	known as the Sunshine Act, as well as the Board's
22		22	regulations implementing the Sunshine Act and the Board's
23		23	operating procedures for meetings.
24		24	The Board is invoking Exception 3 to close the
25		25	meeting as authorized under 5 U.S. Code 552(b)(c)(3) and
	2		4
1	INDEX	1	.  10 CFR 1704.4(c). The Board has determined that it is
2	TIPELL	2	necessary to close the meeting to the public since
2	Topic: Page:		
3		3	
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	5		7
1	result of this closed meeting.	1	understand the status, as well.
2	This prohibition applies to information you may	2	MR. SANTOS: Okay. For the purpose of the
3	learn during the course of the meeting, and it also	3	transcript, we have what I call two hot seats, where
4	applies to information you may learn after the meeting by	4	we're going to be calling staff in and out. I would
5	review of the transcript, related documents, or from	5	kindly ask the staff as they can approach the seats to
6	other sources. Disclosure of such information will be	6	introduce themself and their position within the Board.
7	viewed as a violation of the Board's enabling legislation	7	MR. BULLEN: Thank you, Mr. Santos. My name is
8	and could subject you to adverse personnel action.	8	Daniel Bullen. I'm the Group Lead for Nuclear Programs
9	Now the Board will discuss the	9	and Analysis at the Defense Board. So, in response to
10	potential recommendation on	10	your question about the status, when we briefed the Board
11	Pantex emergency response;	11	I'm thinking it was late April yeah, late April,
12		12	the status of the recommendation was it was about 85
13		13	percent done. So, we needed to finish the risk
14		14	assessment and the cost/benefit analyses that were
15		15	completed.
16	The Board should not conduct deliberations in	16	So, that was done, and then immediately after
17	this closed meeting on procedural aspects of	17	that, my lead reviewer, my lead author on it, was
18	recommendations that are not coupled to a particular	18	deployed to Norway for two weeks. So, we had essentially
19	recommendation. A copy of the closed meeting agenda is	19	availability issues. So, the current status right now is
20 21	posted on the Board's public website.  This concludes my opening remarks. I will now	20 21	that I have the latest revision, which you may have seen
22	turn to the Board members for their opening remarks.	21 22	in the transfer file, was updated on 5/26/15. It included the changes that were made by Jack Deplitch, who
23	Vice Chairman Roberson.	23	signed off on it on the 27th. Monique had signed off on
24	MS. ROBERSON: No comments, Mr. Santos.	24	it in early May, after we finished up the 85 the final
25	MR. SANTOS: Thank you, Vice Chairman.	25	85 percent.
			or Farming
	6		8
1	Mr. Sullivan?	1	I had received retrieved this from our
2	Mr. Sullivan? MR. SULLIVAN: No comments.	2	I had received retrieved this from our admin. It's waiting for Ramsey Arnold's signature right
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they actually have to have this when they're doing their review. And, so, it's a little bit different. That's just a fact about this one. It's not any -- it's just the constraints with which we have to work as we put this one through the process.

So, that's the current status.

MR. SULLIVAN: When do we think it might come to us in Orange Folder?

MR. BULLEN: I have Ramsey coming back next week. I'm here all next week. I would assume that after Ramsey gets it done, Tim and I can crank it out -- I'm looking back at Tim -- in short order. When it comes to Orange Folder, it has to go through the site rep review, and I don't have a good handle on how long that takes. So, it may be a week; it may be a couple of days. Usually, a couple of days for site reps to review it.

Now, we don't have a site rep at Pantex. We have interim site reps. So, that would be an interesting review. My guess is that Rich will be the one that decides how the site rep review is done. So, hopefully, that provided you the current status. That's where we

MR. SANTOS: Can I follow up on that and maybe ask Mr. Tontodonato what the plan is really going to be.

MR. TONTODONATO: I'm Richard Tontodonato. I'm

MR. TONTODONATO: I'm Richard Tontodonato. I'm

all of the issues that we have rolled up into the supporting basis document, it's over about two and a half years. So, putting together the actual recommendation was earlier this year, but the actual technical basis and all the reviews, as you'll see when you get it, it started over two and a half years ago.

MR. SULLIVAN: And I just -- I cheated. See, I did use my technical prowess and figured out that the actual Word document that we have that says the May 26th date, it was initially created February 20th by Travis. And then there's also this period of time between April 24th and May 26 where just nothing happened. And, well, I mean, looking at the document, nothing happened.

MR. BULLEN: Correct.

MR. SULLIVAN: It doesn't mean nothing happened. It's -- so, again, this, to me, it's kind of like I know we have our process, the process is orderly, but it's also slow. And I'm trying to figure out if we can't get this sooner. This is -- it's a big issue, right? I mean, it's an issue where the staff's made a recommend -- you know, the staff's recommendation to us is this -- this should be a formal recommendation to the Secretary. I agree. I want to tell the Secretary to get moving. That's -- I guess that's my point.

So, with that said, you know, without breaking

the Deputy Technical Director. As far as the site rep review, I mean, we just aren't doing a site rep factual accuracy review from Pantex now, because we don't have a site rep there.

MR. SANTOS: Okay.

MR. TONTODONATO: So, the other ones will review it. And, I mean, generally, they're instructed to turn it around in a day. A recommendation package is very thick now, especially with the requirements to have all the supporting documentation included as part of the package now. So, it may take them more than a day, but, I mean, we do not let them languish for weeks with the site reps.

MR. SULLIVAN: Okay, so, again, we don't -- we don't really have a time frame. You know, so, I'm asking because this is an issue of adequate protection, and I tend to agree that it is, and but -- so I'd like to get going. You know, this is -- this is the trigger-happy thing I was talking about. I've seen what Travis has because it was made available to me. It looks -- it looks pretty good, but I also know we started working on this back in February, so it's been a while.

MR. BULLEN: Actually, the technical basis document to support this, we actually started working this two and a half years ago. So, if you take a look at

eggshells, if there's any way we could, you know, look at doing things in parallel or whatever, I would appreciate it. And I don't want to -- I don't want to upset the applecart, but I also don't want to have another closed meeting in July and we're still looking for the Orange Folder on this thing.

MR. BULLEN: Your point is well taken, and I will also highlight what you just exactly said. We have a procedure that we're following, a 34-page procedure. If you're asking, I'm on about page 16 right now. So, that's where it is.

MR. SANTOS: Have you seen a draft? I mean, it's going to come to a technical director for review, but have you seen this already?

MR. TONTODONATO: I haven't, no.

MR. SANTOS: Oh, you have not.

MR. TONTODONATO: Right.

MR. SANTOS: Interesting. I'm not here to change procedures, but it's -- it's, again, things that can smartly be done in parallel, even if there's additional changes, it would probably save time. I'm just afraid now that the directors are going to look at it and then cycle you guys for a few more months.

MR. BULLEN: As the cognizant group lead, I would reiterate that I kind of like parts of the

3 (Pages 9 to 12)

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procedure. In fact, I like a lot of the procedure because it gives us configurational control.

MR. SANTOS: Sure.

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MR. BULLEN: If I had an important document like a recommendation and I was having it reviewed in parallel and I was the person that had to deconflict -- I mean, it's a challenge to deconflict Orange Folder comments. If I had to deconflict all site rep comments and all group lead comments and all of my tech staff comments, it would be a nightmare. And as cumbersome as the process may appear, it's orderly and methodical.

And I know engineers are good at being orderly and methodical, but I think it's the process that you have to follow or it will be very difficult, if not chaotic, to finally resolve the final issue that you get. And, so, even though it's tight control, I think the tight control in this case is necessary.

MR. SANTOS: Yeah, I hear you, and I'm not suggesting you don't do that, but at the same time, there's an element of surprise, of risk you may want to eliminate. So, while my -- you might not need to necessarily resolve the technical director comments in parallel, you may want to know if there's any big showstoppers or surprises ahead of time. That's all.

So, not necessarily that you have to do this

these procedures is they're written by engineers, so they're very, very detailed. But that's good and bad. And, so, in this case, we are halfway through, but we're -- I would say we're 95 percent of the way through the process itself, so this is almost done, is my answer.

MS. ROBERSON: So, let me just ask you a general question. So, I mean, we've all -- we've been briefed. I certainly have seen the draft as well, too. Are we getting our -- are we going to get ourselves into a cycle where it takes so long that we have to up -- go back and update information? How -- how are we moving this? I mean, are there big technical issues left?

MR. BULLEN: No. We're ready -- we're almost ready.

MS. ROBERSON: So, it's just getting through the review process.

MR. BULLEN: It's getting through the review process.

MS. ROBERSON: And style, to some degree.

MR. BULLEN: And part of it also is trying to resolve some of the tough questions that we have now that we have new guidance on our recommendations. What's the risk assessment? So, we had to identify what that was, and then, you know, is there a cost implication to this.

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configuration nightmare, but do I have any showstoppers here type item. That's all.

MR. BULLEN: And I would -- I would suggest that we rediscuss this at the group lead level, so this is not a surprise to the people that are in the other groups. People are well aware -- I guess this is also an interdisciplinary team, because Jack Deplitch is in Tim's group and Monique and Travis are in my group. So, we actually do talk.

We don't necessarily brief the Tech Director and Deputy Technical Director on what we're doing, although you guys -- they do see our weeklies, they do see our hot topics, they do see that we're working on this. And I have spoken, although not officially briefed, you know, both of my bosses about how this -how this works.

MR. SANTOS: Thank you.

MS. ROBERSON: So -- so, you did scare me because you said really you're halfway through your procedure.

MR. BULLEN: Well, actually, what happens after page 16 is it's out of my control, so that's the part that I'm -- but it goes to the reviews that we talked about. And they're explicit, so it's the step-by-step process. And part of the criticism you could have of

1 And one would argue, well, there is and there isn't, 2

because they're supposed to do these review; they're supposed to do these exercises but -- and, so, are they

doing that? Is that an extra cost? So we have to

4 5 justify some more things that we didn't used to justify.

6 And, so again, this is the second recommendation that's

7 come out of my group. I actually think it's gone 8

smoother than the first.

MR. SANTOS: Okay.

MR. BULLEN: But that's just my -- my --

MR. SANTOS: Yeah, sorry to interrupt.

MR. BULLEN: Yeah.

MR. SANTOS: I just want to let you know we have one hour --

MR. BULLEN: Okay.

MR. SANTOS: -- to do everything, so, Sean?

MR. SULLIVAN: Do we actually have to address the cost piece? I don't think we do, do we?

MS. ROBERSON: Economic feasibility.

MR. BULLEN: Economic feasibility is what it

is.

MR. TONTODONATO: Yeah, I think that's what he's talking about.

MR. SULLIVAN: That's right, but we never used to include that in our recommendations, and I didn't

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

	17		19
1	interpret the statutory	1	this is very relevant to the recommendation at hand, and
2	MR. SANTOS: The statute, right.	2	the timely advice from legal on this is the biggest
3	MR. SULLIVAN: change as changing that.	3	priority so we don't create unnecessary delays.
4	MR. BULLEN: I'm sorry, I just have risk	4	I will conclude this topic for now, given the
5	recommendation back here. That's all I have.	5	other topics. So, I'll move to the next potential
6	MR. SULLIVAN: No, there's something in the	6	recommendation any final thoughts on this one from the
7	draft that talks about technical and economic	7	Board?
8	feasability.	8	MR. SULLIVAN: A final thought. And, again,
9	MR. BULLEN: Yep.	9	this may not be by your procedures, but I would think
10	MS. ROBERSON: We do.	10	that if we don't expect a whole lot of technical change
11	MR. BULLEN: Yeah, that's there. That's the	11	as we move forward, legal, if they haven't looked at it,
12	one before risk.	12	might want to do their review. And you could later give
13	MS. ROBERSON: It's in the last two.	13	them a redline, strikeout version so they could see what
14	MR. SANTOS: That's a good point, Sean. Can we	14 15	changed.
15 16	get not now, obviously a look into the our current statutory requirements on that?	16	I mean, I'm just trying to suggest ways so that we might make when we get to the step of the
17	MS. ROBERSON: I think we can. I think we need	17	procedure, in the order the procedure says to get to,
18	to make sure we look at the letter we sent to Congress a	18	right, then, you know, can we speed things up. I mean, I
19	couple years ago on this specific topic and what we	19	can already look at the May 26th version. If I have
20	committed to.	20	comments in it, then I'll create a redline, strikeout
21	MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah, just to my	21	between that and what you give me later, and, you know,
22	recollection, 2013, they put the assessed risk into the	22	try to figure it out so I don't have to start from ground
23	recommendation procedure. They put it in there in a way	23	zero on the day it shows up in Orange Folder.
24	that the sentence doesn't actually make sense from you	24	MR. SANTOS: So, for example, can we get a copy
25	know, the commas aren't in the right place. It doesn't	25	now to OGC?
	18		20
1	matter. There was actually this disconnect over on	1	MR. BULLEN: Sure, that's fine.
2	Capitol Hill as to whether or not the words "specifically	2	MR. TONTODONATO: Yes.
3	assessed" only applied to risk or also applied to	3	MR. SULLIVAN: So, I mean, I would just like to
4	technical and economic feasibility. Then the House, last	4	I would move the Board
5	year, wanted a further amendment amended, but that never	5	MR. SANTOS: Mm-hmm.
6	made it into law.	6	MR. SULLIVAN: to give direction to staff,
7	So, we're still back with the 2013, if I	7	execute the procedure as expeditiously as possible. It's
8	remember correctly, where it's in this sentence that	8	a pretty simple motion, if
9	doesn't make it's kind of a mangled sentence. But the	9	MR. SANTOS: Well, I have a motion on the table
10	more liberal interpretation of that sentence, the one	10	to
11	more favorable to us, was they added this specific	11	MS. ROBERSON: I second the motion.
12	assessment of risk; they did not add anything that said	12	MR. SANTOS: Second the motion?
13 14	do anything different on technical and economic	13 14	MR. SULLIVAN: I think we've discussed it. No,
15	feasibility. That's my recollection of the statute.  MS. ROBERSON: I agree with your recollection.	15	I think we have to vote.
16	The only element that I think we need to look at is we	16	MR. SANTOS: Oh, you want to vote now? MR. SULLIVAN: Well, we've got a motion.
17	were also asked to explain to Congress	17	MR. SANTOS: The motion the motion is on the
18	MR. SULLIVAN: Right, we were.	18	table; the motion passed.
19	MS. ROBERSON: how we were dealing with it,	19	MR. SULLIVAN: Did we vote?
20	and that, I'm not so sure, that we as a Board didn't make	20	MR. SANTOS: So, now let's go for a vote.
21	commitments in that, and we just need to look at it.	21	We're going to vote now.
22	MR. SULLIVAN: I don't think we committed to	22	MR. BATHERSON: Okay, so, Mr. Sullivan?
23	write something down each time we did a recommendation,	23	MR. SANTOS: Restate the question, please.
24	but you just look.	24	MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, the motion is for the Board
25	MR. SANTOS: So, the only thing I'll ask is	25	to direct the staff to execute the procedure as

## Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

expeditiously as possible with respect to this recommendation.  MR. BATHERSON: Mr. Stokes has something to say.  MR. SANTOS: Hold on. We're in deliberations here.  MR. BATHERSON: Well, do you want to hear from him?  MR. SANTOS: I'll ask Sean, who made the proposal, if you have any objections, because we're in the middle of deliberations.  MR. SILLIVAN: Right, no. I mean, yeah, I consent. to - we want to hear from the ferbincial Director. That's fine.  MR. SANTOS: Okay, I consent, too.  MS. ROBRESON: I consent.  MR. SANTOS: Seen Stokes. I'm the Technical Director, Jist asking for some clarification on the motion from the Reart, to ensure that while 's heing asked for it to execute this consistent with the procedure to exclude any other competing activities. So, this would make this the priority activity of all the staff involved in producing a recommendation as quickly as possible. If that's what "expeditiously execute the procedure" means.  MR. SULLIVAN: I think it does. That would be  22  my intent, unless - unless you're going to tell me you have some other thing that you're working on that is an issue of adequate protection, you already think it's an issue of adequate protection in that would conflict with that. Do you?  MR. SULLIVAN: Lel, I think that would be just the logical outflow. My intent here is to really provide the sense of the Board that, yeah, this is important, let's try to do it as quickly as we can. It's nothing more than that.  MR. STOKES: Speed priority.  MR. STOKES: Speed priority.  MR. BATHERSON: Let's have a vote.  Mr. Sallivan?  MR. SANTOS: Thank you. Any final comment from any Board member on this topic of next topic?  MS. ROBERSON: The vote carries. The recommendation will proceed pursuant to the procedures as expeditiously as possible.		21		23
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## PAGES 24 – 68 CONTAIN EXEMPT TESTIMONY THAT HAS BEEN REDACTED

	69		71
1		1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	MR. SANTOS: Any final comments on this topic?	2	
3	MS. ROBERSON: I don't have any additional.	3	
4	MR. SANTOS: Okay.	4	I, LINDA METCALF, the officer before whom the
5	Okay, any other comments on any other previous	5	foregoing testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the
6	topics?	6	proceeding was digitally recorded by me and thereafter
7	MS. ROBERSON: No, sir.	7	reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; that
8	MR. SULLIVAN: No.	8	said testimony is a true record of the event; that I am
9	MR. SANTOS: Okay, having completed each of the	9	neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of
10	closed meeting topics, I would like to thank everybody	10	the parties to the action in which this proceeding was
11	for their participation in this closed meeting. Again,	11	taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee
12	one last chance, do the Board members have any final	12	of any of the parties hereto, nor financially or
13	comments on anything associated with the topic of this	13 14	otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.
14	meeting?	15	
15 16	MS. ROBERSON: No, sir, I don't, Mr. Santos. MR. SANTOS: Thank you, Madam Vice Chairman.	16	
16	Mr. Salvios: Thank you, Madam vice Chairman. Mr. Sullivan?	17	LINDA METCALF
18	MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. I think it was a useful	18	LINDA METCALI
19	exercise and I look forward to doing it again regularly.	19	
20	MR. SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.	20	
21	As a final reminder, all of you who have been	21	
22	privy to this proceeding or who may later gain access to	22	
23	information discussed here are under a nondisclosure	23	
24	obligation and are prohibited from disclosing,	24	
25	reproducing, or disseminating to any person or entity	25	
	70		
1	outside the agency any information you have learned here		
2	today concerning potential Board recommendation.		
3	This concludes the Defense Nuclear Facilities		
4	Safety Board closed meeting. The meeting is adjourned.		
5	(Whereupon, the closed board meeting was		
6	adjourned at 4:25 p m.)		
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