

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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DNFSB CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF OPERATION

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to announce completion of twenty years of operations. Congress created the Board in 1989 as an independent agency within the executive branch to identify the nature and consequences of potential threats to public health and safety at the Department of Energy's (DOE) defense nuclear facilities, to elevate such issues to the highest levels of authority, and to inform the public. The presidentially-appointed Board members are respected experts in the field of nuclear safety. The Board's permanent technical staff has broad experience and is highly competent in safety matters.

The Board is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has site offices at six high-priority defense nuclear facility sites: the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Hanford Site in Washington State, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, and the Pantex Plant in Texas. The site offices provide the Board with a continuous presence and oversight at these locations. At other facility locations, the Board maintains safety oversight by means of regular on-site reviews by members of its technical staff.

The Board's oversight includes the following:

- DOE Safety Directives
- Integrated Safety Management
- Incorporation of Safety in the Design of New Facilities
- Facility Startup and Restart
- Reliability of Safety Systems and Safety Controls
- DOE Technical Capability
- Criticality Safety
- Fire Protection
- Safety of Nuclear Weapons Operations
- Stabilization and Safe Storage of Special Nuclear Materials
- Radioactive Waste Stabilization, Storage, and Disposal
- Quality Assurance

Over the past 20 years, the Board's oversight has significantly improved the safety of the design of, and operations within, the DOE defense nuclear complex. The Board's activities and accomplishments over the past two decades are documented in its annual reports to Congress. The Board has issued 51 formal recommendations to the Secretary of Energy, imposed hundreds of reporting requirements, and held 96 public hearings. The Board's reports, recommendations, correspondence, and other information can be viewed on the Board's website at www.dnfsb.gov.