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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

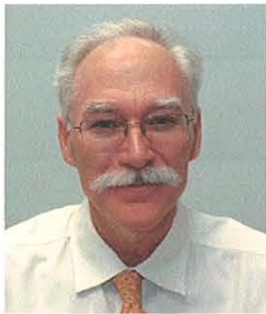
Washington, DC 20004-2901



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Immediate Release  
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**April 23, 2012**



The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to announce the assignment of Dr. Thomas Spatz as Site Representative at the Department of Energy's Pantex Plant (Pantex) in Texas. Dr. Spatz will report for duty at Pantex in August 2012.

As a Site Representative, Dr. Spatz will advise the Board on the overall safety conditions at Pantex defense nuclear facilities and will participate in technical reviews by the Board and its staff related to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities. Additionally, Dr. Spatz will act as the Board's liaison with Department of Energy and Babcock & Wilcox management; federal, state and local agencies; the public; and industry officials.

Dr. Spatz joined the Board's technical staff in October 2007. During his tenure on the technical staff, Dr. Spatz has been the Board's Cognizant Engineer for the Sandia National Laboratories and the Cognizant Engineer for tritium facilities. He has led reviews of the safety basis for nuclear explosive operations at Pantex, the tritium facilities at the Savannah River Site, and the Annular Core Research Reactor at Sandia National Laboratories. He has also evaluated the effectiveness of several nuclear explosive safety studies at Pantex. Prior to joining the Board's staff, Dr. Spatz spent more than six years at the Westinghouse Savannah River Company, and nine years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. His work ranged from performing Loss of Coolant Accident experiments for the Accelerator Production of Tritium to several years as the Lead System Engineer for the W80 and the W88 nuclear warheads.

Dr. Spatz holds Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.