REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION BY A BOARD MEMBER

Requester: ___JOYCE CONNERY____ January 5, 2016

Brief description of Requested Action: Request the Board to approve the attached Tritium letter and Staff Report to be sent to Administrator Klotz. This is an updated version that was altered to address some Board member issues regarding the reporting requirement. While I still believe that asking for the Department to provide the Board with the information requested in the original letter is the appropriate path—both as an indicator of the importance of the issue and to prompt them to solidify their plans as quickly as possible—I do not believe that we should hold up communicating on this important issue.

Attachments (init) Letter and Staff Report (included clean version of any proposed document or modified document)

Summarize any time sensitive considerations:

Requestor signature ___________________________ 1/6/15  Click here to enter a date.

Assistant Executive secretary ___________________________ 01.06.15  Click here to enter a date.

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<th>ABSTAIN</th>
<th>NOT PARTICIPATING</th>
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Final Disposition Summary

Executive Secretary signature ___________________________________  Click here to enter a date.
AFFIRMATION OF BOARD VOTING RECORD

SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report.

Doc Control#2016-045

The Board, with Board Member(s) Joyce L. Connery, Jessie H. Roberson, Daniel J. Santos, Bruce Hamilton approving, Board Member(s) Sean Sullivan disapproving, Board Member(s) none abstaining, and Board Member(s) none recusing, have voted to approve the above document on January 6, 2016.

The votes were recorded as:

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<th>Name</th>
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*Reason for Not Participating:

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Board Members.

Assistant Executive/Secretary to the Board

Attachments:
1. Voting Summary
2. Board Member Vote Sheets

cc: Board Members
OGC
OGM Records Officer
OTD
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Joyce L. Connery

SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report

Doc Control#2016-045

Approved____ Disapproved____ Abstain____

Recusal – Not Participating____

COMMENTS: Below____ Attached____ None____

[Signature]
Joyce L. Connery

[Date] 1/6/16
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Jessie H. Roberson

SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report

Doc Control#2016-045

Approved ✗ Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Recusal – Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached _____ None ✗

Jessie H. Roberson
January 6, 2016
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Sean Sullivan

SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report
Doc Control#2016-045

Approved_____ Disapproved _X_ Abstain_____

Recusal – Not Participating_____

COMMENTS: Below _X_ Attached____ None____

I agree that NNSA should update the safety basis for the Tritium Extraction Facility as soon as practical. However, several aspects of proposed letter and staff report perplex me.

First, the staff performed reviews of the TEF safety basis in May and December of 2014. Now – after a lapse of 13 or perhaps 20 months since discovery of the specific issues – the Board is asked to suggest timely action by NNSA. Our significant delay in reporting our findings to the NNSA Administrator is at odds with the proposed characterization of the issues as “important.”

Second, given the significant passage of time since discovery of the issues, we have had sufficient opportunity to independently determine whether additional controls are needed to adequately protect the collocated worker. If additional controls are needed then the proper communication is a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy. If not, then the suggested actions are improvements to safety and may be appropriately delayed by the Administrator as scarce resources are allocated. In either case, I find the proposed correspondence deficient.

Third, the lack of a remote monitor for the fire safety system tank level alarm is labeled a safety issue. As a practical matter, the tank must experience a loss of 100K to 150K gallons of water from nominal level before the alarm set point is reached and given the tank’s proximity to the facility, initial detection of a leak is as likely to be the result of a person stepping in the small pond created by the leak. It is not clear that the additional measures suggested will provide safety improvement commensurate with their cost.

Fourth, the report provides an additional observation suggesting that orifices in certain gas flow piping systems be credited as safety significant due to their purpose in limiting the asphyxiation hazard. An orifice has no moving parts, and in my experience the only testing, inspection, maintenance, repair or replacement ever required for an orifice results from potential plugging. But since the safety function is to limit flow, orifice plugging would actually decrease the asphyxiation hazard. Therefore, designation as safety significant would add administrative requirements without any actual improvement to safety.

Sean Sullivan

Date
Approved without comments.

From: Shelby Qualls
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:37:18 AM
To: Mark Welch; James Biggins; Steven Stokes; Bruce Hamilton; Daniel J. Santos; Jessie Roberson; Joyce Connery; Sean Sullivan
Cc: Lotus Smith; Shelby Qualls
Subject: Notational Vote Doc#2016-045, Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report - BLUE FOLDER

This email is an electronic record of Notational Vote. Voting ballot will follow shortly. Also, accepting electronic votes.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Members of the Board
SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report

DOC# 2016-045

Office Directors are copied and should provide input, if applicable.

Approved____
Disapproved____
Abstain____
Recusal – Not Participating____

COMMENTS:
Below____
Attached____
None____

Shelby Qualls
Assistant Executive Secretary
Office of the Chairman
I approve.
I have no comments.

This email is an electronic record of Notational Vote. Voting ballot will follow shortly. Also, accepting electronic votes.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Members of the Board
SUBJECT: Request for Board Action by Chairman Joyce Connery to Approve Updated Tritium Letter and Staff Report

DOC# 2016-045

Office Directors are copied and should provide input, if applicable.

Approved____
Disapproved____
Abstain____
Recusal – Not Participating____

COMMENTS:
Below____
Attached____
None____

Shelby Qualls
Assistant Executive Secretary
Office of the Chairman