

Thomas A. Summers, Acting Chairman  
Patricia L. Lee

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



June 12, 2025

The Honorable Christopher Wright  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Wright:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to recognize that the Department of Energy (DOE) has named Mr. Joseph Smith of the Savannah River Operations Office as the 2024 Facility Representative of the Year.

In 2024, Mr. Smith routinely demonstrated his effectiveness in providing oversight at the Savannah River Site. He led the Fast Critical Assembly Readiness Assessment and authored the Federal Plan of Action in support of the Mark-18A Target Material Recovery Program. In addition, he provided expertise in support of a conduct of operations assessment at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant at the Hanford Site. Mr. Smith demonstrated critical skills in leadership, technical knowledge, problem resolution, and communication during these impressive accomplishments.

The Board also recognizes the Savannah River Operations Office leadership for supporting Mr. Smith and promoting nuclear safety at the Savannah River Site and across the defense nuclear complex.

The Board joins DOE and its field office managers in acknowledging the important contributions made by the DOE facility representatives and extends its sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Smith. The Board invites Mr. Smith to meet with its executives during his next visit to the Washington, DC, area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas A. Summers  
Acting Chairman

- c: Mr. Roger Jarrell, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management  
Mr. Edwin Deshong, Manager, Savannah River Operations Office  
Mr. Joseph Smith, Facility Representative, Savannah River Laboratory Office  
Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board

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Dear Secretary Wright:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to recognize that the Department of Energy (DOE) has named Mr. Tim Yeh of the Hanford Field Office as the 2024 Safety System Oversight (SSO) Engineer of the Year.

In 2024, Mr. Yeh provided oversight of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) Project, including supporting operational readiness of the Direct-Feed Low Activity Waste (DFLAW) facility and design changes for the High-Level Waste (HLW) facility. Mr. Yeh's unique skill set and strong technical background in software engineering, instrumentation and control, and electronics helped ensure important mission and safety goals. Further, Mr. Yeh served as an important mentor and provided key subject matter expertise to colleagues in the field office and the WTP project.

The Board also recognizes the Hanford Field Office leadership for supporting Mr. Yeh and promoting nuclear safety at the Hanford facility.

The Board joins DOE and its field office managers in acknowledging the important contributions made by the DOE SSO engineers and extends its sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Yeh. The Board invites Mr. Yeh to meet with its executives during his next visit to the Washington, DC, area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas A. Summers  
Acting Chairman

- c: Mr. Roger Jarrell, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management  
Mr. Brian Harkins, Acting Manager, Hanford Field Office  
Mr. Tim Yeh, Safety Systems Oversight Engineer, Hanford Field Office  
Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board