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PRESS RELEASE

Acting Chairman Thomas A. Summers Concludes Tenure with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Washington, DC— The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) today announced that Acting Chairman Thomas A. Summers concluded his service with the agency on October 18, 2025, upon the completion of his second term as Board Member and pursuant to statutory requirements outlined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

Mr. Summers served the Board with distinction, most recently as Acting Chairman, leading the agency during a period of significant transition and sustained operational excellence. Under his leadership, the Board advanced its oversight of the Department of Energy's (DOE) defense nuclear facilities, strengthened collaboration with DOE leadership, and upheld the Board's mission to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety.

Upon his departure, the Board will continue to operate below the quorum threshold required to take certain formal actions under its enabling statute. To ensure the continuity of operations, Mr. Summers has delegated limited authorities to designated senior officials, including the authority to issue reporting requirements to DOE.

Despite this transition, the DNFSB remains fully committed to its vital national security mission. The agency's highly qualified technical staff will continue to perform independent safety oversight at DOE defense nuclear facilities across the nation, including the Y-12 National Security Complex, Pantex Plant, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Savannah River Site, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and the Hanford Site, among others.

The Board reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling its statutory mandate under 42 U.S.C. § 2286a, ensuring that DOE's defense nuclear operations do not pose undue risk to workers or the public. The Board also emphasizes the importance of DOE's continued cooperation in providing prompt and unfettered access to facilities, personnel, and information necessary to fulfill this vital oversight role.

The DNFSB appreciates the ongoing support of the President and the U.S. Congress in maintaining independent safety oversight of the nation's defense nuclear complex. The Board looks forward to the timely nomination and confirmation of new members to restore quorum and continue advancing the Board's essential mission on behalf of the American people.

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