

Bruce Hamilton, Acting Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



June 6, 2018

The Honorable James Richard Perry  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Perry:

On May 22, 2018, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board issued and made effective Policy Statement-7, *Policy Statement on Communication and Disposition of Safety Items*. This policy statement establishes how the Board will disposition identified safety items and how these items will be formally communicated to the Department of Energy and other stakeholders. We have enclosed a copy of this policy for your information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hamilton".

Bruce Hamilton  
Acting Chairman

Enclosure

c: Mr. Joe Olencz

# **Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board**

**Washington, DC 20004**

## **Policy Statement**

PS-7

**Date:** May 22, 2018

### **Subject**

Policy Statement on  
communication and disposition  
of safety items.

### **Summary**

This policy statement  
establishes aspects of the  
Defense Nuclear Facilities  
Safety Board communication  
and disposition of safety items.



**Bruce Hamilton**  
Acting Chairman

## **I. Background**

The mission of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is to provide independent analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy to inform the Secretary, in the role of the Secretary as operator and regulator of the defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy (DOE), in providing adequate protection of public health and safety at such defense nuclear facilities. This policy establishes certain aspects of the Board's communication and disposition of safety items to better enable the execution of the Board's functions consistent with its mission.

## **II. Definitions**

*Potential Safety Item*—anything that may become a safety item.

*Safety Item*—any type of nuclear safety deficiency (i.e., Safety Observations, Safety issue, or Issue of Adequate Protection).

*Safety Issue*—a safety item for which the Board requires additional information to assess whether it could challenge adequate protection of public health and safety.

*Issue of Adequate Protection*—a safety item where the Board recommends corrective actions to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety.

## **III. Policy**

- All potential safety items shall be communicated and made visible to the Board. If a potential safety item involves an immediate hazard in the field, communications to the Board and a DOE representative shall occur concurrently, if possible.
- All potential safety items shall be processed. This process shall support the Board's determination of safety items and shall be limited to the collection and evaluation of information, the development of the technical basis, and the development of a recommended course of action for consideration by the Board. This safety determination by the Board shall be based on the summation of the evidence gathered, independent technical analysis, and sound technical basis.
- The Board determines what constitutes a safety item for the agency.
- Each safety item shall be tracked, communicated to DOE, and dispositioned following a documented and formal process involving the Board. No suggestion (implicitly or explicitly) shall be made for DOE and DOE contractors to take any actions outside this formal process.
- A summary of all safety items, their status, and Board disposition shall be communicated as part of the annual report to Congress for the applicable reporting period.