

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Washington, DC 20004

Policy Statement

PS-8

Date: June 27, 2018

Subject

Policy Statement on Oversight of
Department of Energy Defense
Nuclear Facility Standards.

Summary

This policy statement establishes
the approach the Defense Nuclear
Facilities Safety Board will take to
review and evaluate Department
of Energy defense nuclear facility
standards.



Bruce Hamilton
Acting Chairman

I. Background

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) enabling statute requires the Board to review and evaluate the content and implementation of the standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy (DOE) (including all applicable DOE orders, regulations, and requirements) at each DOE defense nuclear facility.

II. Definition

Standards—The Board considers the word “standards,” as used in its enabling statute, to include DOE regulations, policies, notices, orders, guides, technical standards, and any other directive that DOE or the National Nuclear Security Administration uses to promulgate policy, requirements, or guidance related to safety at defense nuclear facilities.

III. Policy

- It is the policy of the Board to review and evaluate the content and implementation of DOE standards. The Board shall, in the conduct of its oversight role, identify inconsistencies in implementation across the complex as well as best practices.
- The Board will determine which standards will be reviewed on an annual basis and will communicate its determination to DOE, but will reserve the right to add reviews as it deems necessary. The Board will consider standards that have complex-wide effect and establish controls for high-hazard activities, in prioritizing the review of DOE standards.
- Following review of such standards, the Board will issue a formal Board Recommendation to communicate specific measures that should be adopted to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected.
- The Board will communicate necessary changes in the content and implementation of standards, as well as matters on which additional data or additional research is needed, as part of formal Board Recommendations that should be adopted to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected.
- The Board will use other statutory tools to gather information from DOE necessary to review and evaluate the content and implementation of DOE standards.
- The Board may formally communicate to DOE its independent analysis and advice regarding DOE standards.
- A summary of all standards reviewed by the Board, their status, and Board disposition will be publicly available on the Board's website.