

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Washington, DC 20004

Policy Statement

PS-9

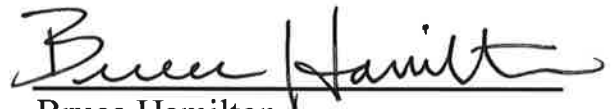
Date: September 5, 2018

Subject

Policy Statement on the Resident Inspector Program of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

Summary

This policy statement establishes key aspects of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board approach to field oversight.



Bruce Hamilton
Acting Chairman

I. Background

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's enabling statute establishes that the Board may assign staff to be stationed at any Department of Energy defense nuclear facility to carry out the functions of the Board.

II. Policy

- The Board will approve the appointment of each Resident Inspector, taking into consideration line management recommendations.
- Resident Inspectors shall undergo and successfully complete a formal, systematic training and qualification program in order to prepare them to perform on-site independent safety oversight. The training and qualification program shall ensure competency in areas including, but not limited to: (1) applicable DNFSB and DOE processes and requirements for work at defense nuclear facilities; (2) technical proficiency and expertise in conducting independent safety oversight; (3) interfaces and communications with the Board, DOE, contractor personnel, external entities, and the public; and (4) personal conduct and interpersonal effectiveness.
- The Resident Inspector Program shall include oversight of defined safety areas with assigned periodicities. Associated procedures shall be developed for the conduct of independent safety oversight of the safety areas within the given periodicities.
- The Resident Inspector Program shall contain a formal transition plan for each Resident Inspector to minimize any potential gaps in providing direct oversight at a defense nuclear site.
- The DNFSB internal control program shall include periodic assessments of the Resident Inspector Program.
- Resident Inspectors shall conduct frequent and direct safety oversight in accordance with the Resident Inspector Program and consistent with the priorities established by the Board.
- Resident Inspectors shall provide the Board with weekly reports suitable for public release that document their independent observations during the reporting period. They will provide more detailed information to the Board through technical briefings.
- Resident Inspectors shall provide input to the Board's annual report to Congress, summarizing the results of their independent safety oversight.

- Resident Inspectors shall serve a tour of duty of specified length greater than one year and no more than 5 years total associated with a defense nuclear site unless the Board approves an extension. Terms shall be staggered at each site to minimize potential gaps in providing direct oversight. This policy does not preclude Resident Inspectors from relocating for reasons such as reassignments.
- Line management is responsible for overseeing that Resident Inspectors conduct on-site activities at defense nuclear facilities as intended, in accordance with the Resident Inspector Program, and consistent with the priorities established by the Board. Line management shall periodically (e.g., once a quarter) visit defense nuclear sites to directly observe and assess the performance of Resident Inspectors.
- The Board's annual report to Congress shall describe the Board-approved Resident Inspector staffing levels at each defense nuclear site along with its basis.