



PELLISSIPPI STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Roane State

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

October 4, 2013

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Board Members,

We are submitting this letter in response to the DNFSB public meeting scheduled for October 22, 2013 in Knoxville. We are the presidents of two of the thirteen community colleges in the Tennessee Board of Regents system and together serve a multicounty region adjacent to the Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) operations in Anderson and Roane Counties. Our combined regional service area matches closely the employment counties of DOE and NNSA's Y-12 National Security Complex which will include the new Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

Both of our colleges, Pellissippi Community College and Roane State Community College, have campus locations within five miles of the UPF construction site. For this reason we are well informed of the role the Y-12 National Security Complex plays in our national security and the importance of a well trained workforce to support its missions. As you know the Y-12 missions involve much more than maintaining the nation's nuclear stockpile. Work completed in the UPF will include dismantlement and disposition, material recycle and recovery, nuclear nonproliferation, producing fuel for naval reactors, and supplying medical isotopes that are used in cancer treatment. This work certainly requires unique skills and a well trained workforce. Our colleges are well prepared to assist in ensuring the availability of some of this workforce as well as the workforce needed to construct the new UPF.

We realize the current Y-12 facilities involved in processing uranium are structurally weak and lack modern safety features. The structures built in the 1940's require extensive maintenance and repair and are simply not viable to be a modern nuclear facility. The new UPF will offer a greatly improved health and safety work environment and we will help support this environment with a workforce focused on health and safety.

We appreciate your role in ensuring the safety of our nation's nuclear facilities. We are also actively engaged to ensure a workforce is available to operate these facilities in a safe and effective manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the UPF project.

Respectfully,

Dr. Anthony Wise, President
Pellissippi State Community College

Dr. Chris Whaley, President
Roane State Community College