

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
Public Hearing

July 13, 2021
1:15 PM – 4:30 PM

RECORD CORRECTION:

The National Nuclear Security Administration submitted a correction to the record for one of Jason Armstrong's answers at the July 13, 2021, Public Hearing. The correction consists of additional testimony inserted into his answer. Mr. Armstrong's corrected answer, with Joyce Connery's prompting question, is reproduced below. The additional testimony inserted is in **bold**. The uncorrected response is available beginning on page 13 of the published transcript.

CHAIR CONNERY: ... I know Mr. Armstrong, that you have been at the site for about three months now, so you're completely up to speed on everything that's going on. So I want to talk to you a little bit about the combined tritium enterprise safety basis, which was approved in 2019, and as Mr. Roscetti noted, the implementation won't begin until 2025. So I want to understand from you, which improvements from that new combined safety basis can be implemented sooner and which can't be implemented right away, and why not?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Thank you very much for the question. So you're correct, NNSA approved the combined documents with the analysis in December of 2019 for the expected implementation by 2025. The team is actively engaged in that. They meet routinely with our M&O partner. We also invite the resident inspector to attend all of those meetings and to hear our progress as we proceed down this path.

We have completed 14 actions to date with actions being on time. **The co-located Worker Risk Reduction Strategy is an evolving effort. As analysis and calculations are completed, the deliverables are evaluated as we continue to understand how we can best protect the co-located worker. Using this approach, the original 2018 Co-located Worker Risk Reduction Strategy has expanded from 19 activities to 32. As of May 31, 2021, 16 of the currently identified 32 activities have been completed. The Savannah River Field Office recently formally approved this Strategy and task activities and remains committed to their completion. Field Office personnel closely monitor the progress of these deliverables on a weekly basis.**

We also conducted a independent structural engineering analysis where NNSA, or National Nuclear Security Administration, hired an independent professional, licensed professional engineer, to evaluate that engineering study to look at the structural integrity of our facilities to a Natural Phenomena Hazard Design Category 3, Criteria. That review is being -- I understand that review is being done to validate the engineering study reports.

We recently had approved the plan for the actions to have the safety basis implemented by 2025. Now, the process to implement it and work towards it requires a lot of work, requires our actions to be solid. As we know in the nuclear safety space, there is no hope, or I think it's got to be absolutes, and that's what we're working towards. And lot of questions are being asked, a lot of good, solid understanding has to be made, and so things that they're doing right now -- excuse me for a minute here -- include fire dampers, the fire hood, includes the fire suppression system.

So those things do not -- are not executed overnight. And they need to be done right and they need to be done accurately. So safety remains our number one priority, and as we do that, we're making sure that everything we do does not have an unintentional consequence and that we're doing it right and correctly.