

**In the Matter of:**

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board**

*November 23, 2015*  
*Public Business Meeting*

**Condensed Transcript with Word Index**



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Public Business Meeting

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

11/23/2015

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3 DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD  
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10 PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING  
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12 NOVEMBER 23, 2015  
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15 DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD  
16 625 INDIANA AVENUE, NW  
17 WASHINGTON, DC 20004  
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1 PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING  
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3 (1:00 p.m.)  
4 MS. CONNERY: Good afternoon. My name is Joyce  
5 Connery and I am the Chairman of the Defense Nuclear  
6 Facilities Safety Board. I will preside over this public  
7 business meeting. I'd like to introduce my colleagues on  
8 the Board. To my right is Ms. Jessie Roberson, the  
9 Board's Vice Chairman. To her right is Bruce Hamilton.  
10 To my immediate left is Mr. Sean Sullivan; and to his  
11 left, Mr. Daniel Santos. We five constitute the Board.  
12 Having established a quorum of Board members,  
13 this public meeting will now come to order. Mr. James  
14 Biggins, the Board's Acting General Counsel, is seated o  
15 my immediate right. Mr. Biggins will serve as the  
16 parliamentarian for this meeting and will advise me on  
17 any points of procedure. Mr. Biggins, please present the  
18 meeting agenda.  
19 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good  
20 afternoon, Board Members, staff, and members of the  
21 public. This business meeting was originally noticed in  
22 the Federal Register on October 16th, 2015, as revised by  
23 a notice of November 5th, 2015. The meeting is held open  
24 to the public per the provisions of the Government and  
25 the Sunshine Act, the Board's regulations implementing

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1 the Sunshine Act, and the Board's operating procedures  
2 dated August 2015.  
3 The Board's operating procedures are posted on  
4 the Board's public website at DNFSB.gov. The Board is  
5 recording this proceeding through a verbatim transcript  
6 and video recording. The transcript, public notice, and  
7 video recording will be available for viewing in the  
8 public reading room here at our headquarters in  
9 Washington, DC.  
10 In addition, an archive copy of the video  
11 recording will be available through our website for at  
12 least 60 days. The video recording will also be posted  
13 on the Board's YouTube channel. The Board previously  
14 posted on its public website a copy of the PowerPoint  
15 slides that will be shown in today's presentations, with  
16 an invitation to the public to provide e-mail comments  
17 back to the Board concerning those slides. Comments  
18 received from the public regarding the slides will be  
19 included in the meeting record.  
20 The Board reserves its right to further  
21 schedule and regulate the course of this meeting to  
22 recess, reconvene, postpone, or adjourn this meeting in  
23 accordance with the provisions of the Sunshine Act, and  
24 otherwise exercise its authority under the Atomic Energy  
25 Act of 1954 as amended.

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1 A public business meeting agenda for a November  
 2 23, 2015, meeting was approved by the Board by notational  
 3 vote on October 26, 2015. The agenda is posted on the  
 4 Board's public website. This business meeting will  
 5 proceed in accordance with that agenda. As stated in the  
 6 agenda, the Chairman and the Board Members will provide  
 7 opening remarks followed by presentations from the  
 8 Technical Director and his staff concerning an overview  
 9 of technical staff work plan activities for Fiscal Year  
 10 2016 and crosscutting technical issues.

11 The Board will then engage in discussions on  
 12 these topics. The Office of the Technical Director staff  
 13 will then provide presentations on technical staff work  
 14 for Fiscal Year 2016 related to the National Nuclear  
 15 Security Administration, or NNSA, and the Department of  
 16 Energy Environmental Management, or EM, program issues  
 17 and related technical staff oversight priorities.

18 The Board will again enter into discussions on  
 19 these topics. The Board will then receive comments from  
 20 the public followed by Board member closing remarks. The  
 21 Chairman will then provide her closing remarks and  
 22 adjourn the meeting.

23 I now yield the floor back to the Chairman for  
 24 opening remarks.

25 MS. CONNERY: Good afternoon again. This is my

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1 first public meeting, so I wanted to take the opportunity  
 2 to thank my fellow Board Members. I was sworn in in  
 3 August, and since that time, the Board has been extremely  
 4 supportive of me, helping me learn the ropes. So, I'd  
 5 like to thank in particular Ms. Roberson, Mr. Sullivan,  
 6 and Mr. Santos, who preceded me here, and Mr. Hamilton,  
 7 who came shortly thereafter me.

8 I would like to also recognize the hard work of  
 9 the staff, both the Office of General Counsel, the Office  
 10 of General Management, and the technical staff for their  
 11 continued support and work in getting me up to speed on  
 12 all of their issues.

13 As those of you who were at the public meeting  
 14 last year will notice that we've got a very specific  
 15 agenda this time. It's focused on the work plan of the  
 16 Technical Office, and our discussions will be restricted  
 17 to those issues when we get to the discussion part.

18 I'd also like to make a quick note of  
 19 introduction because we have two new senior managers here  
 20 at the Board. Katherine Herrera has joined us as the  
 21 Deputy General Manager, so welcome, Katherine. And as  
 22 you've already seen, we have an Acting General Counsel,  
 23 Mr. Jim Biggins, who comes to us by way of the NRC. So,  
 24 we're very luck to have them here with us.

25 The only other comments I would like to make

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1 that since the last time we met we've done a lot of  
 2 interesting work, some of which you'll hear about today,  
 3 and intend to move forward with that. One of the other  
 4 enterprises that we've engaged in is to adopt our core  
 5 values, and I will give credit to Mr. Santos for working  
 6 directly with the staff to do so. And you'll notice that  
 7 they're on our lanyards: excellence, respect, and  
 8 integrity. And that's how we intend to conduct the  
 9 meeting this afternoon. So, with that, I will turn my  
 10 remarks over to Ms. Roberson.

11 MS. ROBERSON: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I  
 12 don't have any comments at this time.

13 MS. CONNERY: Mr. Sullivan?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: No comments.

15 MS. CONNERY: Mr. Santos?

16 MR. SANTOS: No comments.

17 MS. CONNERY: This is easy. Mr. Hamilton?

18 MR. HAMILTON:: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I  
 19 have no comments.

20 MS. CONNERY: Well, this concludes the Board's  
 21 opening remarks. At this time, I'd like to begin with  
 22 our first order of business on the agenda. I recognize  
 23 our first presenter, Mr. Steven Stokes, the Board's  
 24 Technical Director. Mr. Stokes, please report to the  
 25 Board with an overview of the Office of Technical

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1 Director's work plan for the activities of Fiscal Year  
 2 2016.

3 MR. STOKES: Good afternoon, Madam Chairman,  
 4 Madam Vice Chair, and Board Members. My name, for the  
 5 record, is Steven Stokes, and I am the Board's Technical  
 6 Director. Today, I'm going to talk about and give an  
 7 introduction into the planning process and how we  
 8 essentially formulated the plan, which you'll hear in  
 9 great detail throughout the remaining presentations.

10 I'm here to talk about the overall objective of  
 11 the planning process, which, in summary, is really to  
 12 provide a draft plan for the Board's approval that  
 13 ensures that the Board's strategic goals are met and that  
 14 the Board's technical staff resources focus on those  
 15 activities that have the highest priority from a nuclear  
 16 safety perspective. The Board's priority oversight  
 17 responsibilities are derived from the Board's enabling  
 18 legislation. Next page, please.

19 As I mentioned, the work plan is designed to  
 20 ensure that the Board's strategic goals are met, and the  
 21 planning process recognizes that we have to focus on  
 22 those activities that are required by statute. These  
 23 are, and as you can refer to the list on this slide, a  
 24 review of the Department of Energy's progress resolving  
 25 existing Board issues and open Board recommendations; its

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1 oversight of high-hazard nuclear operations at the  
2 Department of Energy's defense nuclear facilities -- and  
3 that is primarily focused to ensure that ongoing  
4 operations can be conducted safely; and a review of new  
5 design and construction projects to ensure that when  
6 those projects are built and operate that they will meet  
7 applicable design standards and can operate safely; and  
8 then, lastly, the review of DOE's directives. Next  
9 slide, please.

10 Since this plan that we formulated is a  
11 forward-looking plan, the planning process requires that  
12 a number of assumptions are made. First, we assume that  
13 the Department of Energy's work that they expect to  
14 perform will actually be performed. So -- and we work  
15 with our onsite representatives at the working level, and  
16 our cognizant engineers assigned to each site to maintain  
17 close contact with the DOE's representatives to  
18 understand their plans. This includes work from Fiscal  
19 Year 2015 that continues into Fiscal Year 2016 and new  
20 work that will be initiated in the Fiscal Year 2016.

21 And, lastly, our staff capability. We evaluate  
22 what our technical capabilities are and then review DOE's  
23 planned work, and then match our capability with their  
24 work to be able to -- and to identify the highest  
25 priority work that DOE will do so that what we end up

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1 doing is matching our capability with DOE's work to focus  
2 on the high-priority, high-hazard activities. Next  
3 slide, please.

4 In prioritizing these things, we have developed  
5 a process for being able to look at these things in a  
6 qualitative approach, something that without a tremendous  
7 amount of effort from a quantitative sense can be easily  
8 evaluated and compiled in a common-sense, very logical  
9 approach. So, we use a guide to prioritize each of the  
10 projects, subject to available staffing resources, and  
11 these -- what you see on this slide, in no particular  
12 order, are those things that we evaluate.

13 So, we look at the potential health impacts to  
14 the public, to the collocated workers, to facility  
15 workers, from an accidental release of radioactive  
16 material standpoint. We look at the consequences of  
17 their magnitude and the likelihood or the frequency of  
18 those things, accidents that could happen.

19 We look at the adequacy of their safety-related  
20 controls, both engineered and administrative, that are  
21 designed to prevent or mitigate postulated accidents.  
22 And then we look at the readiness of the operators, their  
23 management, and the DOE's oversight from the perspective  
24 of can they safely conduct nuclear operations. We look  
25 at the complexity of those operations, and we look at the

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1 adequacy of the documentation that they've put together  
2 to be able to manage their safety process. We always --  
3 and, fundamentally, what we're asking is are all  
4 potential accidents properly identified and controlled.

5 What we actually -- what we actually -- are we  
6 back to normal? What we really do is, using this  
7 qualitative approach, we attempt to inform ourselves  
8 about the work being conducted at DOE and recommend a  
9 plan to the Board that uses our available resources as  
10 efficiently and effectively as possible.

11 In the presentations that will follow this  
12 introduction, the distribution of technical staff  
13 resources will be discussed, and the high-priority  
14 activities will also be discussed. This ends my remarks.

15 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Stokes.

16 Do any of the Board Members have any clarifying  
17 questions for Mr. Stokes? But, again, we're going to  
18 save substance for our conversations amongst ourselves.

19 Mr. Sullivan?

20 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. Mr. Stokes, we don't have  
21 a final budget for the year yet. We don't have a full  
22 year appropriation yet. I don't think any federal agency  
23 does. And, so, I think our appropriation could end up  
24 being what is in the current authorizing bill or it could  
25 end up being something lower such as a sequestration

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1 value, and I think there's about a 10 percent difference  
2 between those two numbers.

3 If we end up at the lower number -- well, let  
4 me just ask you this. Did you assume a particular budget  
5 level when you put this plan together? And, if so, what  
6 happens if we don't get that?

7 MR. STOKES: The budget level that is assumed  
8 is more a function of our available staff resources. Can  
9 you hear me?

10 MR. SULLIVAN: I just think you need to speak  
11 as closely as you can into that microphone.

12 MR. STOKES: Okay, thank you. Our approach to  
13 this and the assumption that we made is we used available  
14 staff resources. The basic assumption that was made is  
15 that we would be fully funded for the existing level that  
16 we currently have onboard for the year so that if there  
17 are reductions in the -- I can back up, I think.

18 If there are reductions in the size of our  
19 budget throughout the fiscal year, then we would have to  
20 have a RIF to be able to lower the amount of work that we  
21 could do. If --

22 MR. SULLIVAN: Can I just -- we have somebody  
23 trying to adjust the volume. Maybe we ought to just --  
24 Madam Chair, maybe we ought to just take a minute or two  
25 and try to get this right.

13

1 MS. CONNERY: We can. We can pause for  
 2 technical difficulties.  
 3 (Brief pause.)  
 4 MR. STOKES: Is this working?  
 5 Okay. I forgot where we had left off, but  
 6 basically we assume that the current staffing level is  
 7 existing throughout the entire year. If, in fact, that  
 8 is not the case and there is a reduction in our overall  
 9 forces, we would accommodate those reductions in an  
 10 incremental fashion based upon the reality of whatever  
 11 the budget numbers that presented at the time we did get  
 12 a budget.  
 13 Similarly, if we received a higher amount and  
 14 we add staff, those staff will be added to the plan as  
 15 their capability to be able to execute our procedures and  
 16 participate in the work load, essentially an onboarding  
 17 process, once that process is done, we would add those  
 18 resources to the -- to the planning process and increase  
 19 the amount of output that we would do in a fiscal year.  
 20 Does that answer your question, Mr. Sullivan?  
 21 MR. SULLIVAN: I think it does. Let me just  
 22 add, though, for additional clarity that if I'm taking  
 23 your answer, you did this plan to the current staff. My  
 24 knowledge of the budget request would allow us, if  
 25 approved, would allow us to add about 10 more technical

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1 staff members onto a staff that's currently about 80  
 2 people. So, that would be at least a 10 percent increase  
 3 in staff members, which would mean if we get our budget,  
 4 we hopefully could do more than what's actually in your  
 5 plan.  
 6 MR. STOKES: That's correct.  
 7 MR. SULLIVAN: All right, thank you.  
 8 MS. CONNERY: Any other questions from Board  
 9 Members?  
 10 Mr. Santos?  
 11 MR. SANTOS: Yes. As you go through the  
 12 presentation, if you could help explain to the public how  
 13 DOE work activities and schedules factor into your  
 14 prioritization and the link between your work and DOE's  
 15 work at the various sites.  
 16 MR. STOKES: Okay. I'll give it kind of a  
 17 response and in an overview fashion, and then as specific  
 18 examples come up, the following presenters can either  
 19 illustrate that or you can follow it up with questions.  
 20 The way that we prioritize work with respect to  
 21 ongoing DOE activities, it's essentially in two ways.  
 22 One is if it's a timed DOE activity, for example, if DOE  
 23 is going to initiate operations at a particular facility,  
 24 they will precede those activities with a series of  
 25 readiness activities. So, in our planning process, what

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1 we do is we identify, based on DOE scheduling, when those  
 2 activities would occur and then allocate resources to be  
 3 able to perform those oversight activities at the time  
 4 DOE believes that those activities would be conducted.  
 5 That's one way.  
 6 The other way is we look at our understanding  
 7 of the maturity of particular products that DOE produces  
 8 as a part of, say, the design process. So, if they are  
 9 going to produce a critical safety document at a specific  
 10 time, we align our oversight activities with DOE's  
 11 activities to be able to perform those in a timely  
 12 fashion. So, that's another example of how we do those  
 13 kinds of things.  
 14 As we -- as you will see in the following  
 15 presentations, you'll see those kinds of priorities being  
 16 -- and approaches being identified.  
 17 MS. CONNERY: Mr. Stokes, I'd like to ask you a  
 18 followup question to something Mr. Sullivan asked. What  
 19 is the onboarding schedule for new employees? How long  
 20 does it take to get them fully up to speed so that they  
 21 could actually participate and perform work?  
 22 MR. STOKES: They can participate and perform  
 23 work almost immediately, but we have a one-year  
 24 onboarding process to fully familiarize the folks with  
 25 the DOE way of doing nuclear safety and those kinds of

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1 things, depending upon the individual. For example, if  
 2 we were to be hiring somebody with 25 years of DOE  
 3 experience, certain aspects of the onboarding process  
 4 wouldn't be as applicable, and they would be able to  
 5 start sooner.  
 6 On average, our expectation is it takes about  
 7 one year to be able to have a staff member that has no  
 8 previous DOE experience or previous nuclear safety  
 9 experience to be able to be a fully contributing member  
 10 of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board Technical  
 11 Staff.  
 12 MS. CONNERY: Thank you. Any other question?  
 13 (No response.)  
 14 MS. CONNERY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Stokes.  
 15 I would now like to introduce the Board's Group  
 16 Lead for Performance and Assurance and Acting Group Lead  
 17 for Nuclear Safety Programs and Analysis, Mr. Chris  
 18 Roscetti. Mr. Roscetti will provide a presentation on  
 19 the Office of Technical Director's Fiscal Year 2016  
 20 Crosscutting Issues.  
 21 And just a note, so we asked the staff to  
 22 provide this presentation in a way that would be most  
 23 accessible to the public, so we have the crosscutting  
 24 issues and then we've divided the world up into the  
 25 environmental management programs and NNSA, National

<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>1 Nuclear Security Administration, programs for ease of 2 understanding, but that's not necessarily how our 3 technical staff is divided. So, I thought I'd just 4 clarify that.</p> <p>5 With that, over to you, Mr. Roscetti.</p> <p>6 MR. ROSCETTI: Thank you. Good afternoon, 7 Madam Chairman, Board Members, staff members, members of 8 the public. My name is Chris Roscetti. I am the Group 9 Lead for Performance Assurance and the Acting Group Lead 10 for Nuclear Programs and Analysis.</p> <p>11 Thank you for the opportunity to present the 12 crosscutting issues portion of the Office of the 13 Technical Director's Fiscal Year 2016 Work Plan. Slide 14 7, please.</p> <p>15 I will briefly cover the Board's strategic 16 objectives and performance goals as they relate to 17 crosscutting issues and how we determine our priorities. 18 I will discuss the estimated manpower for crosscutting 19 issues and how it is used. I plan to review open Board 20 recommendations that cover crosscutting issues. And, 21 finally, I will discuss other planned crosscutting 22 oversight activities and discuss uncertainties in our 23 plan. Slide 8, please.</p> <p>24 The Board established two strategic objectives 25 that cover crosscutting issues. Strategic objective 2.1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>1 available resources on crosscutting issues. This is 2 shown by the green bar labeled on the X axis as Nuclear 3 Programs. Slide 11, please.</p> <p>4 This slide shows the different areas of work 5 that the Nuclear Programs and Analysis Group plans to 6 focus on in Fiscal Year 2016. As can be seen by the pie 7 chart, we plan to spend a large portion of oversight 8 activities on Board recommendations 2014-1, 2011-1, 2010- 9 1, and also reviewing Department of Energy directives. 10 Slide 12, please.</p> <p>11 The Board's currently open crosscutting 12 recommendations include 2010-1, Safety Analysis 13 Requirements for Defining Adequate Protection for the 14 Public and the Workers; 2011-1, Safety Culture at the 15 Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant; and 2014-1, 16 Emergency Preparedness and Response. Slide 13, please.</p> <p>17 For Board Recommendation 2010-1, the Department 18 of Energy has two actions that are outstanding: revising 19 Department of Energy Standard 1189-2008, Integration of 20 Safety into the Design Process; and evaluating facility 21 safety analyses against certain enhanced requirements 22 from DOE Standard 3009-2014.</p> <p>23 The technical staff plans to continue its 24 oversight of the Department of Energy's revision to 25 Standard 1189. We also plan to review DOE's gap analyses</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1 is to accomplish independent oversight to strengthen the 2 development, implementation, and maintenance of DOE 3 regulations, requirements, and guidance for providing 4 adequate protection of public health and safety at 5 defense nuclear facilities.</p> <p>6 Strategic objective 2.2 is to accomplish 7 independent oversight to improve the establishment and 8 implementation of safety programs at defense nuclear 9 facilities. The technical staff provides oversight of 10 Department of Energy directives and their safety programs 11 across the complex, hence the crosscutting nature. Slide 12 9, please.</p> <p>13 The Office of the Technical Director 14 establishes priorities based on the following: the 15 safety issues communicated to the Department of Energy 16 via recommendations or correspondence; the Board's 17 enabling legislation, meaning our review of the 18 Department of Energy's directives; the risk a particular 19 issue presents to the public and workers; the role the 20 program plays in protecting public and workers; the type 21 and quantity of nuclear material that is at risk; and the 22 complexity of the particular operations and activities. 23 Slide 10, please.</p> <p>24 The Office of the Technical Director plans to 25 use just over 20 percent of the technical staff's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>1 of facility safety analysis when they are completed. 2 Slide 14, please.</p> <p>3 For Board Recommendation 2011-1, the 4 Department of Energy has completed the majority of the 5 implementation plan deliverables. These actions included 6 Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant assessments and 7 corrective actions and completing complex-wide extent-of- 8 condition reviews and developing sustainment plans for 9 other defense nuclear facilities.</p> <p>10 The technical staff plans to continue to 11 provide oversight of the implementation of the remaining 12 open actions of this recommendation in Fiscal Year 2016. 13 Slide 15, please.</p> <p>14 For Board Recommendation 2014-1, Emergency 15 Preparedness and Response, the Board recommended the 16 Department of Energy make improvements in its emergency 17 planning and response program, including standardizing 18 and improving implementation of its criteria and review 19 approaches and updating its emergency management 20 directive.</p> <p>21 The technical staff plans to continue its 22 oversight of emergency preparedness and response and 23 DOE's implementation of this recommendation in Fiscal 24 Year 2016. Slide 16, please.</p> <p>25 In addition to the Board's open</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>1 recommendations, this slide lists the additional 2 crosscutting issues that I will discuss in a little more 3 detail in the upcoming slides. Slide 17, please. 4 The technical staff plans to provide oversight 5 of the Department of Energy's implementation of DOE 6 Standard 3009-2014, Preparation of Nonreactor Nuclear 7 Facility Safety -- excuse me, Preparation of Nonreactor 8 Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analysis. This 9 standard is a safe harbor for new facilities, major 10 modifications to existing facilities, and existing 11 facilities with mitigated public doses above the 12 evaluation guideline of 25 rem total effective dose 13 equivalent. 14 As I mentioned when discussing slide 13, DOE 15 plans to conduct gap analyses of existing facilities 16 against this set of requirements from DOE Standard 3009- 17 2014 that pertain to protecting the public from 18 radiological hazards. The technical staff plans to 19 provide oversight of these analyses. Slide 18, please. 20 The technical staff plans to conduct oversight 21 of quality assurance and software quality assurance by 22 performing reviews of Department of Energy sites and 23 projects, including at the Nevada National Security Site, 24 the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, and the 25 Pantex Plant.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>1 provide oversight of the Department of Energy's 2 criticality safety program by performing reviews of 3 criticality safety programs at Savannah River Site, Los 4 Alamos National Laboratory, the Nevada National Security 5 Site, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Slide 6 21, please. 7 The technical staff also plans to provide 8 oversight of the Department of Energy's implementation 9 and nuclear facility safety bases. This includes 10 reviewing technical safety requirement controls and their 11 implementation. Technical safety requirements ensure 12 operating parameters are maintained and that safety 13 systems, structures, and components are available to 14 perform their stated safety function. 15 The technical staff has reviews planned at 16 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Pantex 17 Plant. Slide 22, please. 18 As I previously mentioned, the Department of 19 Energy is revising DOE Standard 1189 in response to Board 20 Recommendation 2010-1. Part of this revision will align 21 DOE Standard 1189 with DOE Standard 3009-2014. It will 22 also incorporate best practices and the lessons learned 23 over the past six to seven years from using Department of 24 Energy Standard 1189. The technical staff plans to 25 continue to provide oversight of this revision of DOE</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1 The technical staff plans to continue to 2 provide oversight of the Radcalc commercial grade 3 dedication process. Finally, the technical staff plans 4 to review revisions to quality assurance, software 5 quality assurance related directives such as Department 6 of Energy Guide 414.1-4. This is the Safety Software 7 Guide. 8 The technical staff also plans to participate 9 and contribute to requirements development and 10 requirements maintenance of the NQA-1 standard as 11 committee members. Slide 19, please. 12 With respect to Department of Energy's 13 emergency planning and response capabilities, the 14 technical staff plans to focus on oversight of drill and 15 exercise programs, technical planning bases, capability 16 to interface with offsite organizations, and self- 17 assessments and corrective action effectiveness. The 18 technical staff plans to review site-specific 19 implementation of DOE's emergency management directives 20 at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Waste Isolation 21 Pilot Plant. 22 Finally, the technical staff plans to observe 23 site-wide and facility-specific drills and exercises as 24 resources and schedules permit. Slide 20, please. 25 The technical staff also plans to continue to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>1 Standard 1189. Slide 23, please. 2 The technical staff also plans to provide 3 oversight of the Department of Energy's revision of other 4 directives. On average, the technical staff will review 5 approximately 25 Department of Energy and National 6 Nuclear Security Administration directives. These 7 include policies, orders, manuals, guides, technical 8 standards, and NNSA supplemental directives. 9 RevCom is the term commonly used for Department 10 of Energy's review and comment process. We plan to 11 review directives during the pre-RevCom, initial RevCom, 12 and final RevCom or concurrence RevCom phase. Slide 24, 13 please. 14 This slide lists eight directives that the 15 technical staff anticipates reviewing in Fiscal Year 16 2016, including DOE Order 435, Radioactive Waste 17 Management. This order also has a companion manual and 18 series of guides that will likely also be revised. 19 I previously mentioned DOE Guide 414.1-4, the 20 Safety Software Guide. And we also plan to review DOE 21 Standards 1186, 3014, 1095, and 1020 as shown on the 22 slide. Slide 25, please. 23 There are uncertainties associated with the 24 technical staff's planned oversight of crosscutting 25 issues. These include having the technical expertise</p>

25

1 available for the current set of planned reviews. Our  
2 reviews of Department of Energy directives occur when the  
3 Department of Energy revises its directives, thus we  
4 follow the Department of Energy's time-line and our  
5 workload increases based on the number and timing of  
6 directives we receive.

7 There is also the possibility than an unplanned  
8 event will occur that will divert necessary technical  
9 resources from crosscutting issues, or a higher priority  
10 issue will require the technical resources planned for a  
11 crosscutting item. Slide 26, please.

12 This slide lists the acronyms that were used in  
13 the slides I just presented. Thank you for the  
14 opportunity to present the crosscutting issues portion of  
15 the Office of the Technical Director's Fiscal Year 2016  
16 Work Plan.

17 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Roscetti.

18 Are there any clarifying questions for Mr.  
19 Roscetti at this time? Mr. Sullivan.

20 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. If we could go back to the  
21 uncertainties slide, which was right there, 25. Thank  
22 you. So, the first bullet, meeting staffing  
23 requirements, are you aware of some staffing issues or is  
24 this a catchall, who knows what could happen to our  
25 staffing?

26

1 In other words, are you telling us -- well, do  
2 you have the staffing that you need right now in order to  
3 execute your plan? Let me ask you that in a simple and  
4 direct manner.

5 MR. ROSCETTI: For crosscutting issues, yes,  
6 sir, we have the staffing we need to execute the plan  
7 that I just presented.

8 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. So, I will take it that  
9 this bullet implies who knows what could happen in the  
10 future. Is that all it says?

11 MR. ROSCETTI: That is what it says. It also  
12 was written a few weeks ago, when we had some turnover in  
13 particularly important positions, such as emergency  
14 planning and response, sir.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Are you asking this Board  
16 for more assets in order to do what needs to be done?

17 MR. ROSCETTI: No, sir, I'm not at this time,  
18 no.

19 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.

20 So, you gave us three crosscutting issues, and  
21 there's three different slides if you want to go back  
22 through them one at a time. But you had QA; you had  
23 emergency planning; and you had criticality safety. Do  
24 you have site-specific priority lists for each one of  
25 those? In other words, take one at a time, quality

27

1 assurance, is there a place that you're going to go first  
2 for quality assurance? How are you organizing that part  
3 of it? The slide is up there. It was slide 18.

4 MR. ROSCETTI: Yes, sir. For quality  
5 assurance, we're planning reviews at Nevada National  
6 Security Site, the Waste Treatment and Immobilization  
7 Plant, and the Pantex Plant.

8 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And are those based on  
9 the criteria that you gave me earlier about -- you gave  
10 us earlier about the different factors that you're using?  
11 In other words, is Nevada first just because -- I mean,  
12 what makes Nevada -- is Nevada first on the list, and, if  
13 so, why?

14 MR. ROSCETTI: Yes, sir. We actually --  
15 because we're already in the fiscal year, we've actually  
16 already accomplished a review at Nevada. The reason that  
17 was first is because of the resources we had and when the  
18 sites could support our reviews.

19 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Is there anywhere in  
20 particular where we're worried about quality assurance?  
21 You know, in other words, we already think it's deficient  
22 at some place in the complex?

23 MR. ROSCETTI: We are working on exploring  
24 where software quality assurance is deficient, so that  
25 would fall under quality assurance. And information at

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1 these particular sites will help us better make a  
2 conclusion as to what level of deficiency we think  
3 software quality assurance has.

4 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. So, let me just generally  
5 ask the same question about emergency preparedness and  
6 then criticality safety. Are there places you're going  
7 first because you're worried about them? Or are the next  
8 things on your list just part of the general sequence of  
9 events in trying to get around the complex?

10 MR. ROSCETTI: So, with respect to emergency  
11 planning and response, we're planning to go to Los Alamos  
12 National Laboratory at the end of the second quarter, in  
13 the February time frame. That's based on observations  
14 that we've had doing -- observing drills and execute --  
15 drills and exercises executed at Los Alamos National  
16 Laboratory.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And for the public,  
18 you've recently been to Pantex and Savannah River. Is  
19 that -- so you've already got those accomplished in FY15;  
20 is that correct?

21 MR. ROSCETTI: Yes, sir.

22 MR. SULLIVAN: All right, thank you. And for  
23 criticality safety?

24 MR. ROSCETTI: So, again for criticality  
25 safety, we were planning reviews at Savannah River Site,



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1 Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada National Security  
2 Site, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. That's  
3 based on the priorities that I had put up earlier on the  
4 slide, but also when we have resources available and when  
5 sites potentially could support reviews, sir.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And I recall some recent  
7 issues that occurred at Savannah River in criticality  
8 safety, which -- not actually issues that we uncovered,  
9 but it sounds like a -- it sounds like a prudent place to  
10 go take a look. Thank you.

11 MS. CONNERY: Any other questions for Mr.  
12 Roscetti? Mr. Santos?

13 MR. SANTOS: Yes, ma'am. Hi. As you know, we  
14 recently celebrated our 25-years as a Board, and as you  
15 know, we are -- we and also the Department were facing a  
16 lot of transition and an aging workforce. Going with  
17 this that the Board throughout its history has issued  
18 several recommendations that have been already closed.  
19 Does your group periodically relook at closed issues to  
20 see if they are relevant, given today's context and  
21 difference in workforce?

22 MR. ROSCETTI: Yes, sir. We do look at issues  
23 that the Board has raised to the Department of Energy's  
24 attention via recommendation. For instance, the Federal  
25 Technical Capability Program, we have personnel who

30

1 provide oversight of that program and the FTCP panel. We  
2 look at the Department of Energy's directives that  
3 they've written in response to that, closed  
4 recommendation. We're continuing to provide oversight of  
5 quality assurance, software quality assurance. That was  
6 covered in a Board recommendation, also. So, yes, sir,  
7 we do look at closed recommendations and the issues that  
8 were brought up by the Board on an ongoing basis.

9 Does that answer your question, sir?

10 MR. SANTOS: Yes. And for the benefit of the  
11 public, can you tell us how your group, or throughout the  
12 Technical Director's groups' operating experience, not  
13 only at DOE but from other sectors and even  
14 international, these factor as a crosscutting issue that  
15 drives some of our work?

16 MR. ROSCETTI: So I make sure I understand your  
17 question, you want to know how we take Department of  
18 Energy's operating experience and operating experience  
19 throughout the industry, how we factor that into our  
20 oversight, sir?

21 MR. SANTOS: Correct.

22 MR. ROSCETTI: So, the Department of Energy  
23 puts out different types of operating experience. We  
24 have an individual who follows the information that the  
25 Department of Energy puts out. He reviews that

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1 information and distributes it to the technical staff so  
2 that we can take that into account in our planning  
3 process and in the oversight that we provide on an  
4 ongoing basis.

5 We also subscribe to industry journals that we  
6 read on a daily basis that then factors into the annual  
7 planning process and then the oversight we provide on a  
8 daily basis. Does that answer your question, sir?

9 MR. SANTOS: Yes.

10 MS. CONNERY: Ms. Roberson?

11 MS. ROBERSON: Thank you, Mr. Roscetti. Just  
12 one clarification on slide 17. On the new 3009 standard,  
13 evaluate the balance of facilities against a select set  
14 of new requirements. Does DOE have a plan for doing that  
15 that we're using or we know they're going to develop a  
16 plan this year? If you know.

17 MR. ROSCETTI: My understanding is that they  
18 have a basic plan. I don't think this is due until  
19 October of 2016, so they have an entire year to do that.

20 MS. ROBERSON: Okay, okay.

21 MR. ROSCETTI: Does that answer your question?

22 MS. ROBERSON: It does.

23 MS. CONNERY: I've got one for you, sir. Can  
24 you go to slide 22? So, this is just a clarifying  
25 question. It says that 2010-1 IP has Standard 1189-2008

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1 entering RevComm, by 12/15. Do we know if that's on  
2 target to actually go into RevCom next month?

3 MR. ROSCETTI: I don't know if that's on  
4 target, ma'am. I do know the Department of Energy has  
5 had specific working groups working on this. We've had  
6 staff members attend those working groups to provide  
7 oversight, and I don't have information to say that  
8 they're not going to meet that deadline because they've  
9 been on track with the working groups. But I can follow  
10 up and get the Board an answer, ma'am.

11 MS. CONNERY: Appreciate that.

12 Any other questions? Anyone? Anyone?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Roscetti.

15 So, in accordance with the agenda, the Board's  
16 going to discuss issues arising from the presentations  
17 that we just heard from Mr. Stokes and Mr. Roscetti. And  
18 in the interest of time, I'm going to guesstimate, unless  
19 we get very carried away, that this will take about 20  
20 minutes, not to cut anyone short. And at that time, I'd  
21 suggest that we take a short break for a recess in case  
22 anyone has to take a small break.

23 But, so, opening up to the Board for  
24 discussion. I realize this table is a little bit awkward  
25 for this, but are there any conversation starters that

1 folks would like to enter into regarding the  
 2 presentations that we just heard? Mr. Sullivan.  
 3 MR. SULLIVAN: I always have something.  
 4 MS. CONNERY: I knew it would be you.  
 5 MR. SULLIVAN: I always -- I can always be  
 6 counted on to have something to say. Specifically with  
 7 respect to crosscutting issues, I'll just state my  
 8 observation. I've now been on the Board for three years.  
 9 I find these issues to be vexing for us as a Board. I  
 10 don't -- I haven't found a good way for us to impact the  
 11 safety around the Department of Energy complex. Because  
 12 of the way these crosscutting issues work, typically --  
 13 well, let me just take a concrete example.  
 14 A concrete example was the Board's  
 15 Recommendation 2010-1. It resulted in an implementation  
 16 plan from the Secretary that said the Secretary would  
 17 have DOE's Standard 3009 revised. So, it was a standard  
 18 that was dated in 1994, if I recall correctly, and now  
 19 they -- it has been revised to one that was -- it's dated  
 20 in 2014. It took four years for that standard to get  
 21 revised, which was quite a long time. And part of the  
 22 problem was that the -- well, we have a statute and the  
 23 Secretary has certain responsibilities under our statute  
 24 to create an implementation plan. The Secretary -- and  
 25 then the Department attempts to carry out that

1 implementation plan.  
 2 But they have this other thing which has been  
 3 referred to here. It's RevCom, which is revision and  
 4 comment. And they have a process for doing revision and  
 5 comment. And the process for revision and comment in the  
 6 Department of Energy does not require that the output  
 7 match what the Secretary told us in the implementation  
 8 plan the Secretary was going to do.  
 9 So, my short summary of the four years of the  
 10 revision of 3009 was there was an awful lot of back-and-  
 11 forth between our staff and their staff because our staff  
 12 would ask the Department of Energy's staff to do  
 13 essentially what the Secretary had committed to do in the  
 14 implementation plan; and they would write that into a  
 15 draft version of this new 3009; they would send it back  
 16 into the RevCom process; and it would come back out of  
 17 the RevCom process and it wouldn't do that anymore. And  
 18 then we'd do this again and again, and each one took  
 19 several months.  
 20 We have another example of a similar process  
 21 that will be necessary for our Recommendation 2014-1 on  
 22 emergency preparedness, so we have an implementation plan  
 23 now from the Secretary. The Secretary said he's going to  
 24 revise their Department of Energy Order 151 -- currently  
 25 version C, charley, going to revise it to a version D,

1 delta, but it will end up being the -- a similar thing,  
 2 I'm afraid, where a revised version of that directive  
 3 will go -- I'm sorry, that's an order -- a revised  
 4 version of that order will go into their RevCom process  
 5 and who knows what comes out, whether the product of the  
 6 RevCom process will be anything similar to what we were  
 7 hoping would be accomplished with the recommendation.  
 8 And what I understood the Secretary to commit to when he  
 9 gave us an implementation plan.  
 10 So, I'm just voicing frustration, but at the  
 11 same time, while we have to comment on their directives  
 12 by our statute, where we find deficiencies in the  
 13 complex, I would just encourage this Board to point out  
 14 the specific deficiencies at specific places in the  
 15 complex and advise the Secretary to fix those.  
 16 And then if we do that -- so, for example, on  
 17 quality assurance, we could tell the Secretary -- let's  
 18 assume that we found many quality assurance -- this is  
 19 just all hypothetical. Assume we found several quality  
 20 assurance deficiencies. Well, we could try to tie them  
 21 all up in one package, put a bow on it and say to the  
 22 Secretary, you really need to take a hard turn on your  
 23 quality assurance program everywhere, starting with your  
 24 directives and what you do in-house in the Forrestal  
 25 Building. And that would -- I would think that would get

1 us in another one of these several-year revision -- and  
 2 meanwhile, the question is, well, what's getting better  
 3 specifically around the DOE complex in quality assurance.  
 4 The alternative would be if we go -- I forget  
 5 where Chris -- Mr. Roscetti told us we were going to go  
 6 first -- Nevada. But if we go to Nevada and we find some  
 7 problems, if we find big problems, well, we just tell  
 8 them to fix the big problems in Nevada. And then we go  
 9 next wherever we go, and we say, okay, fix the problems  
 10 we find there.  
 11 And, eventually, the Secretary being a smart  
 12 individual, will do his own analysis to put together the  
 13 common threads and figure out what he has to fix, but  
 14 meanwhile, if we made some recommendations to fix  
 15 specific issues at specific places, they might actually  
 16 fix those. So, this is just a discussion that I  
 17 encourage my fellow Board Members to consider on these  
 18 crosscutting issues.  
 19 It's really a question of when we find these  
 20 deficiencies, as we have, we found with the issues raised  
 21 in 2010 on how safety analyses -- document safety  
 22 analyses were done around the complex, as we have with  
 23 2014-1 with how emergency preparedness is done across the  
 24 complex, that we actually consider trying to approach  
 25 them in a different manner than we have on several

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1 occasions in the past at this Board and focus more on  
2 specific issues on specific places and then let the  
3 Department do their own root cause analysis as they -- as  
4 they need to.

5 You know, we can do a root cause analysis and  
6 advise. I'm just trying to suggest that if we point out  
7 specific things then hopefully we'll get those fixed and  
8 at least make that progress while people are also looking  
9 at how they fix the overall structural issues that may  
10 exist in directives or other oversight programs.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. It  
13 looks like Mr. Santos would like to respond, so turning  
14 it over to Mr. Santos.

15 MR. SANTOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. You raise  
16 an interesting point, Mr. Sullivan. From my perspective,  
17 I think we need to have a little bit of both. An example  
18 I would like to offer is on the Board's recommendation on  
19 safety culture, specifically Hanford Waste Treatment  
20 Plant. That was very specific to that site. My  
21 understanding is that the Department also conducted an  
22 extended review of safety culture in other sites, but  
23 it's not clear to me that the same level of follow-on  
24 actions or intensity was applied to just WTP has been  
25 done on the other sites. So, that's an example where we

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1 can identify something specific and then make the  
2 assumption that it's going to get carried through  
3 everywhere. That might not happen. So, that way, we  
4 might need a little bit of both the specific and the  
5 overall to drive emphasis from both directions, just to  
6 offer that.

7 MS. CONNERY: Ms. Roberson?

8 MS. ROBERSON: I was just going to chime in.  
9 Yeah, I'm not disputing what Mr. Sullivan said or Mr.  
10 Santos. I do think we could, in our work, probably  
11 sharpen up on when we have requirement deficiencies and  
12 when we have implementation deficiencies. I think that's  
13 an area where we could improve our view that will help on  
14 both counts.

15 MS. CONNERY: Mr. Hamilton, do you have a  
16 comment?

17 So, I'll throw in my two cents. I think, Mr.  
18 Sullivan, I worked at the Department of Energy for a long  
19 time, so I understand your frustration with the  
20 bureaucracy and the RevCom system; however, I also think  
21 that it's -- it's our obligation as a defense board to  
22 look at the orders, and if we see them as being deficient  
23 and eventually causing safety problems because they in  
24 and of themselves are deficient, we have to go after  
25 those, as well as the specific. So, I wouldn't want to

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1 be derelict in that duty, because I think that is  
2 actually part and parcel of what we're obligated to do as  
3 the defense board, just from my standpoint.

4 Mr. Santos?

5 MR. SANTOS: Yeah, I want to go back to the  
6 overall of the crosscutting issues, just as a matter of  
7 discussion that I understand that for FY16 the staff is  
8 focusing on three. We heard QA, safety basis, and EP&R.  
9 But as we all know, there are other -- several very  
10 important crosscutting issues.

11 I'll just give an example: conduct of  
12 operations, training and qualifications, Federal  
13 oversight, that we always must remain vigilant because  
14 any deficiency in other crosscutting issues could  
15 completely swamp or direct us to other priorities. So, I  
16 just want to make sure we don't lose sight of  
17 crosscutting issues. That's all.

18 MS. CONNERY: So, I'll add a comment to that,  
19 because I think you're right. I think sometimes we  
20 neglect the general crosscutting for the specific because  
21 it's easy to understand that things take place in places.  
22 So, when we ask our staff to give us the things that  
23 worry us -- worry them the most, they often give us very  
24 specific examples of the alligator closest to the boat,  
25 where they might actually be not informing us of the

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1 larger crosscutting issues that -- the trends that they  
2 see. And, so, I think we need to encourage a little bit  
3 more perhaps open crosstalk in the boardroom with  
4 ourselves and staff to make sure that those come to the  
5 surface.

6 Other comments?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. CONNERY: Seeing none, if there's no  
9 objection, I would propose just a five-minute break and  
10 then resume at 2:00 to hear our next presentation. If  
11 anyone -- nobody objects to that?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. CONNERY: Okay, so we'll resume at 2:00  
14 promptly. Thank you.

15 (Brief recess.)

16 MS. CONNERY: Okay, welcome back. We're going  
17 back on record. Are there any other comments from the  
18 Board concerning the technical staff crosscutting issues?  
19 Or did we exhaust those in our last session?

20 I just have one comment for the record. Mr.  
21 Roscetti caught me during the break about my question  
22 about whether or not DOE was onboard for 2015 for -- let  
23 me find the issue -- for 1189-2008 for the RevCom. And  
24 he said that indeed they checked, and they are on track  
25 to complete that in December of 2015. So, I just wanted

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1 to note that for the record.  
 2 So, I'd like to turn to the next order of  
 3 business on the agenda. I'd like to recognize our next  
 4 presenters, Mr. Timothy Dwyer, the Board's Group Lead for  
 5 Nuclear Weapon Programs, Dr. Adam Poloski, the Board's  
 6 Group Lead for Nuclear Facility Design and  
 7 Infrastructure.  
 8 Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Poloski, please report to the  
 9 Board concerning the Office of Technical Director's work  
 10 plan activities for Fiscal Year 2016 and those issues  
 11 related to the NNSA programs. Thank you.  
 12 MR. DWYER: Yes, ma'am. Good afternoon, Madam  
 13 Chair, members of the Board, members of the public, and  
 14 the technical staff. My name is Timothy Dwyer. I'm the  
 15 Group Lead for Nuclear Weapon Programs. With me is...  
 16 DR. POLOSKI: Adam Poloski. I'm the Group Lead  
 17 for Nuclear Facility Design and Infrastructure.  
 18 MR. DWYER: We are paired together because  
 19 there is some design and construction work going on at  
 20 nuclear weapon sites, and Adam will be speaking to those  
 21 slides as they come up. Next slide, please.  
 22 So, briefly, the Nuclear Weapon Programs Group  
 23 is part of our strategic goal number one, to improve  
 24 safety of operations, to ensure public and worker health  
 25 and safety. In this case, because it's the NWP group,

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1 we're focusing on the National Nuclear Security  
 2 Administration's defense nuclear facilities, so that  
 3 includes Los Alamos, Pantex, and Y-12, where we maintain  
 4 a near-continuous presence; Lawrence Livermore and Sandia  
 5 National Laboratories; the Nevada National Security Site;  
 6 and the SRS Tritium facilities. We are also conducting  
 7 oversight of nuclear explosive safety, which for purposes  
 8 of our work plan we treat as a site, even though it is  
 9 not really a physical location.  
 10 As part of strategic goal number one, we have a  
 11 strategic objective to perform independent and timely  
 12 oversight to strengthen safety of operations, and we're  
 13 -- in doing that, we're looking at the nuclear weapon  
 14 stockpile and in weapons-related R&D and testing. Next  
 15 slide, please.  
 16 Both the Technical Director and the Nuclear  
 17 Programs and Analysis Group Lead have already discussed  
 18 how we prioritize. I've grouped them a little bit closer  
 19 here because now we're looking at operational facilities  
 20 for the most part. So, the factors that we're focusing  
 21 on are the risks. That's to the public or the workers.  
 22 In general, that has a component that involves types and  
 23 quantities of the nuclear and hazardous material at risk,  
 24 as well as where we're doing the work and how complicated  
 25 or how unique the work might be.

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1 So, for practical purposes, that generally  
 2 means that the material at risk and proximity to the  
 3 public make Los Alamos our site of most concern, followed  
 4 by Y-12 and Pantex. In general, Y-12 and Pantex are neck  
 5 and neck, and one might be a higher priority one year and  
 6 the other the next year based on what is happening at the  
 7 site at that time.  
 8 The nuclear explosive safety category generally  
 9 falls next in line of our priorities, and then I hesitate  
 10 to characterize them this way, but the lesser sites --  
 11 Nevada, Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and the Tritium  
 12 facilities -- are definitely our lower priorities. We do  
 13 not maintain continuous presence there, but let's not  
 14 forget that they are a significant part of our manpower  
 15 budget. Next slide, please.  
 16 In developing this work plan, we did account  
 17 for the programmatic issues that Chris discussed.  
 18 Emergency preparedness and response, as Chris said,  
 19 remains an overriding Board priority. Major reviews at  
 20 Los Alamos are planned. At Pantex, we are basically  
 21 close to completing some of that review activity. We  
 22 also will have opportunities to observe at Livermore,  
 23 Sandia, and Nevada. And in general, at all the nuclear  
 24 weapon sites, we do try to observe, as the opportunities  
 25 arise, any exercises that they are running at the sites.

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1 As Chris mentioned, actually -- twice, once as  
 2 in general we're concerned with safety basis, but also as  
 3 part of implementing the new 3009 standard, we have made  
 4 it a point to have at least one safety-basis-related  
 5 review at each of the sites. At several of the sites we  
 6 have more than one.  
 7 At Los Alamos, we're concerned, of course, with  
 8 the Plutonium Facility. At Pantex, when you fold in the  
 9 nuclear explosive safety activities, there are several  
 10 aspects of the safety basis that we approach from  
 11 different directions. And then at Y-12 we're concerned  
 12 because of the aging facilities, concerns that we all  
 13 have there.  
 14 And then we have, again, opportunities to  
 15 observe ongoing activities. The National Criticality  
 16 Experiments Research Center at the Nevada Nuclear site is  
 17 one of the key ones. Also, implementation of TSR, so  
 18 that's going one step beyond what's in the safety basis  
 19 and down to how are they putting the controls in play at  
 20 the field level. And, of course, the Sandia Annular Core  
 21 Research Reactor facility, we do have the opportunity  
 22 actually to observe an external review by EA at  
 23 headquarters, and that, we hope, will yield some  
 24 interesting data. Next slide, please.  
 25 I'll touch just briefly on these. As Chris

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1 mentioned, both quality assurance, and software quality  
2 assurance are important to us. You already had a bit of  
3 a discussion on that earlier. Nuclear criticality  
4 safety: Savannah River, of course, is a concern. John  
5 Pasko will be talking to that a little bit, but on the  
6 nuclear weapons side, the Plutonium Facility at Los  
7 Alamos is still in the midst of recovering from their  
8 pause in operations.

9 And then conduct of operations, conduct of  
10 maintenance is a programmatic issue that we find,  
11 actually, carries a little bit of weight at the  
12 operational facilities. And lastly, at the Board's  
13 direction, we will spend some time this year planning for  
14 a review that will occur in 2017 that has to do with the  
15 process by which the design agencies provide weapon  
16 response information to Pantex. Next slide, please.

17 Lastly, we factored in some lessons learned  
18 from events at WIPP. We conducted a lessons-learned  
19 review internal to the staff to see if there were some  
20 things that we could do differently -- you know, make  
21 sure that the Board is up on the step for the unknown-  
22 unknowns that are out there.

23 And in this case, we decided that we could, in  
24 fact, formalize the planning regarding the minimum level  
25 of site visits that we would conduct at unmanned sites.

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1 And we have developed monthly site reporting mechanisms.  
2 In fact, if you go to the Board's website, you'll find  
3 that starting this past July we have put monthly reports  
4 up for these sites. And we've put a higher emphasis on  
5 making sure we have access to internal database and  
6 tracking programs that are at each of the sites. Next  
7 slide, please.

8 You've seen this chart. I'm highlighting the  
9 section of the chart that talks to the NNSA focus. We  
10 have slightly less than one-quarter of the Office of the  
11 Technical Director resources focused on NNSA sites and  
12 facilities. One clarification I would like to make,  
13 there was a discussion about -- I believe Mr. Sullivan  
14 asked the question about how long does it take to bring  
15 someone on board, and one thing that I would like to  
16 throw into that is security clearances can be a problem.

17 The process by which clearances are gained is  
18 taking much longer based on more recent process controls  
19 that have been put in place. And, so, it is -- there are  
20 some sites and facilities where you don't have to have a  
21 clearance, but in general, if you're working at an NNSA  
22 site, a clearance is required. That can make it  
23 difficult for a newly arrived staff member to be thrown  
24 into the mix at NNSA. Next slide, please.

25 This is just: given the slightly less than 25

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1 percent of the resources, where do I spend them? As you  
2 can see, LANL gets the lion's share of the pie. Y-12 and  
3 Pantex are neck and neck -- in the same category, though.  
4 Those are the three largest consumers of resources.  
5 Nuclear explosive safety, as I said, is kind of a  
6 category all its own. And then in the lower tier we have  
7 both Nevada, Livermore, and Sandia, also. Some times is  
8 involved with interactions at the headquarters level and  
9 the followup on Recommendation 2009-2, which is the  
10 Plutonium Facility at Los Alamos.

11 So, I will talk a little bit in more detail  
12 about each part of that pie chart. Next slide, please.  
13 No, you went two slides. Back up one, please. Thank  
14 you.

15 So, at Los Alamos, as I said, we're focused on  
16 emergency preparedness. We will also continue to work on  
17 the confluence of events at the Plutonium Facility. They  
18 are still resuming operations following the pause for  
19 criticality safety and conduct of operations issues.  
20 They are executing the plan to conduct readiness  
21 assessments and bring the specific operations back  
22 online. In fact, they completed another one just this  
23 past -- just this past week.

24 We're also continuing to work with NNSA  
25 headquarters on how are we going to resolve the seismic

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1 concerns with the Plutonium Facility. And we are also --  
2 as you recall, we just recently issued a technical report  
3 on material at risk on the first floor of the Plutonium  
4 Facility to the Department, and we understand that the  
5 responsibility for that has been given to NA-10, so we  
6 will be interacting, staff to staff, with NA-10 to see  
7 what they're going to pursue -- what they can take out of  
8 the information that we provide them on material at risk.

9 Operations at LANL are also complicated by a  
10 recent development at Area G, which is where they take  
11 care of transuranic waste. Essentially, they have four  
12 open potential inadequacies in the safety analysis in  
13 Area G that are causing them to also have difficulty  
14 conducting operations. They are in a condition right now  
15 where they're still trying to get a handle on what  
16 exactly is the hazard and the risk. We are interacting  
17 closely with them, and that is actually taking a lot of  
18 our resources.

19 If you fold that in with the issues that the  
20 Board is already on record with the RANT facility and the  
21 WCRR facility, they really have a problem processing,  
22 storing, and moving transuranic waste. And that has an  
23 impact on all operations at the site. Next slide,  
24 please.

25 At this point, Adam is going to discuss the

1 design and construction issues at Los Alamos.  
 2 DR. POLOSKI: Okay. For the nuclear facility  
 3 design and infrastructure scope at Los Alamos, we try to  
 4 focus in on designing in the safety early in the process  
 5 and having that be an integral part of the design process  
 6 and identify safety issues as early as possible so that  
 7 they can be corrected and before they are finalized are  
 8 actually concrete or steel.

9 So, there were three major areas that we were  
 10 focusing in on at LANL. The first one is plutonium  
 11 infrastructure, and there, we're focusing in on the  
 12 oversight of NNSA activities to transform operations out  
 13 of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Facility.

14 The Transuranic Waste Facility at LANL, we are  
 15 focusing in on followup reviews to resolve open Board  
 16 issues from a project letter that was issued a couple of  
 17 years ago. That includes also review of new documented  
 18 safety analyses as the project nears completion of  
 19 construction activities and transition to the Nuclear  
 20 Weapons Program Group for startup operations of the  
 21 Transuranic Waste Facility.

22 The last project that we're looking at is the  
 23 Transuranic Liquid Waste Facility, and we're reviewing  
 24 the new preliminary safety design report for that  
 25 facility that's under design right now.

1 MR. DWYER: Next slide. Shifting now to Y-12,  
 2 as I noted, we would be looking at multiple safety basis  
 3 reviews at some sites. This is one of those sites.  
 4 We're looking at both the Beta 2E and the 9215 safety  
 5 bases. We're also -- although it says Area 5 De-  
 6 inventory, what that really means is they want to  
 7 consolidate the uranium storage to the HEUMF facility,  
 8 and so in order to execute the de-inventory as planned,  
 9 they have to make changes to the HEUMF safety basis.  
 10 That's what we're interested in.

11 And then we'll be looking at pieces of the  
 12 vital safety systems. So, several fire suppression  
 13 system reviews and confinement ventilation system  
 14 reviews. Those also dovetail nicely with some work  
 15 that's going on with the design and construction group.

16 We also are looking into the oversight of  
 17 contractor programs. In particular, you'll see that  
 18 we're looking into the oversight provided by the NNSA  
 19 Production Office. The review at Y-12 is actually linked  
 20 to a review at Pantex since NPO controls both sites. And  
 21 a key feeder of information into the NPO oversight  
 22 systems is the contractor assurance system that is used  
 23 by CNS at Y-12 and Pantex. So, we'll be looking at that.

24 And the staff has already talked to the Board  
 25 about the disciplined operations. That's formal conduct

1 of operations and maintenance, concerns that we have at  
 2 Y-12. We'll be continuing our look at that this year and  
 3 heavy interaction with the staffs of NPO and CNS.

4 Looking at the design and construction  
 5 operations at Y-12 -- Adam.

6 DR. POLOSKI: Yeah, there are two main areas  
 7 that we're going to look at for the FY16, and that  
 8 includes the uranium processing facility. They're  
 9 currently in preliminary design, and so we're going to  
 10 review their design information as it's generated. And  
 11 that includes a new preliminary safety design report  
 12 that's scheduled to be produced this year.

13 Also, direct electrolytic reduction and  
 14 electro-refining project. There was a recent project  
 15 letter that the Board had issued on that project. They  
 16 had to deal with the facility that it's being located in  
 17 and some extended life concerns with that facility. And,  
 18 so, we would be reviewing the response to DOE's response  
 19 to that Board letter. And considering that the staff  
 20 found that the project itself consisted of low-hazard  
 21 activities. And that's it.

22 MR. DWYER: Next slide. At Pantex, as the  
 23 Board is already aware, emergency preparedness and  
 24 response is a major focus. We're also continuing our  
 25 look at the various pieces of the safety basis that

1 support both facility and weapon operations. We are  
 2 concerned with the USQ and the new information processes,  
 3 and the dispersion calculations that they have executed  
 4 there. We're continuing to follow up on issues with the  
 5 special tooling and the implementation of technical  
 6 safety requirements. And then all of this is rolled up  
 7 into the documentation that controls how they process  
 8 these pieces of information.

9 We also are, as I said, looking into NPO  
 10 oversight, so Pantex is the mirror image of Y-12, since  
 11 it's the same field office. As Chris had mentioned,  
 12 quality assurance/software quality assurance is a focus  
 13 at Pantex. There was some question about prioritization.  
 14 We had actually intended for the Pantex QA review to  
 15 happen last September. We could not execute it because  
 16 Pantex was on strike at the time. So, we kicked it back  
 17 down in the order, and Nevada came up next.

18 Also, conduct of maintenance, as the Board is  
 19 aware -- we had some concerns with the lack of  
 20 improvement between the last review about three years ago  
 21 and the review we just executed. And the Board has sent  
 22 a letter to NNSA in the past month.

23 A particular item of interest at Pantex is  
 24 nuclear explosive safety. Next slide, please. Thank  
 25 you.

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1 There is actually for the next two years a very  
2 heavy schedule of nuclear explosive safety studies that  
3 NNSA will be attempting to execute. What that means is  
4 we expect that there will be three major weapon family  
5 nuclear explosive safety studies occurring this year.  
6 I'm not naming the programs in the interest of security.  
7 The interesting thing is last year the Department of  
8 Energy issued the new -- the revised nuclear explosive  
9 safety orders. That means this will be their first  
10 attempt to implement the two new revised NES standards.  
11 So, these are going to be an important milestone. We'll  
12 be closely involved in that effort.

13 We also are expecting that they will attempt to  
14 put in play the new special tooling that they have had  
15 onboard for several years that we've been waiting for  
16 them to implement on another particular weapon program.  
17 And all of these will culminate in appropriate readiness  
18 activities.

19 And we also expect that the normal NES change  
20 evaluation process will be occurring. That will give us  
21 several new opportunities to watch them use the new NES  
22 standards there. Next slide, please.

23 Turning to the Nevada site, we have an ongoing  
24 list of maladies at the Device Assembly Facility. They  
25 are still trying to get things in order on their fire

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1 suppression system. And that's been a difficult problem  
2 for them to wrestle to the ground. Also, they have been  
3 making ventilation system modifications based on some  
4 ongoing contamination issues that they had with the  
5 criticality machines there.

6 Again, as we mentioned, they have a QA/SQA  
7 review that we already executed there, and there are  
8 several opportunities that we have had to observe some  
9 external assessments. For example, they just did the  
10 quadrennial evaluation of technical qualification program  
11 certification. So, we had an opportunity to shadow that  
12 review and learn some more lessons about how federal  
13 qualification is being maintained.

14 I also note that there is a facility at the  
15 Nevada site, U1a. It's a tunnel. It's important that  
16 they learn the lessons that the rest of the complex is  
17 learning about WIPP, and we'll be interacting with them,  
18 but we believe that they are taking onboard some of the  
19 lessons that are important to learn there. Next slide,  
20 please.

21 And now down to the lesser priority (for us),  
22 sites. At Lawrence Livermore, we have had the  
23 opportunity to watch their emergency exercise just  
24 recently. We have been doing a thorough scrub of the  
25 ventilation systems, and as the Board should recall, we

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1 are at the tag end of the probabilistic seismic hazard  
2 analysis 10-year review that they've been doing. They  
3 did work with us to resolve some of the lingering  
4 discrepancies we had there. I believe we will be closed  
5 out on that issue fairly soon.

6 At Sandia, another chance to watch the  
7 emergency exercise. You should detect a theme there.  
8 We're observing emergency exercises wherever we can. And  
9 also we've been able to look at the research reactor  
10 safety bases. And then at Tritium, as the Board is  
11 aware, we have provided you with an issue report on the  
12 documented safety analysis review that we've been  
13 conducting for the last 18 months there.

14 That's, a really broad brush, the spectrum of  
15 work we have proposed for this fiscal year for the  
16 Nuclear Weapon Program. Next slide, please.

17 Where are we uncertain about whether we can  
18 execute this? Well, the first place that we're uncertain  
19 is that our programs, our reviews of operational  
20 programs, are very heavily dependent on the schedule that  
21 NNSA keeps. So, our observations of readiness reviews,  
22 our interactions on nuclear explosive safety are directly  
23 tied to any slippages in NNSA schedule. We adapt to  
24 those as best we can.

25 I would also point out that the cascading

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1 impacts of these can cause us to have, at least internal  
2 to the staff, resource conflicts, but we try to resolve  
3 those, for example, when we shifted the Pantex QA review  
4 from September to next March.

5 And then the unknown-unknowns. Emergent events  
6 may cause us to have to shift resources. I would point  
7 out that those are not necessarily restricted to events  
8 at NNSA sites. The event at WIPP actually caused several  
9 of my resources to be shifted to John because it was all-  
10 hands-on-deck for that.

11 Subject to any questions, that completes the  
12 statement that I had for today.

13 MS. CONNERY: Thank you. Following form, we're  
14 going to see if there are any questions for either Mr.  
15 Dwyer or Mr. Poloski -- Dr. Poloski, based on the  
16 presentation that they just gave.

17 Clarifying questions? Mr. Sullivan.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes. First, just as the  
19 acronym, please. I see you have an acronym list here,  
20 but I think you -- for the public you used three that  
21 aren't on this list, and you may have used more. But EA,  
22 that's enterprise assessments. That's -- can you explain  
23 what that is?

24 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir. That's an NNSA  
25 headquarters office that basically does programmatic

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1 assessments, if you will, across the complex.  
 2 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. HEUMF?  
 3 MR. DWYER: Oh, Highly Enriched Uranium  
 4 Materials Facility.  
 5 MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah, you used that acronym --  
 6 MR. DWYER: Ooh, right. We did not have that  
 7 one there. Yes, sir.  
 8 MR. SULLIVAN: -- but it's not on your list.  
 9 MR. DWYER: That is a particular facility at  
 10 the Y-12 complex.  
 11 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay, yeah. This list is a list  
 12 of acronyms which are in your slides.  
 13 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir.  
 14 MR. SULLIVAN: The acronyms I'm throwing out  
 15 are ones that you said verbally. They're not on your  
 16 slides. That's why they're not on your list. Okay, so,  
 17 that's a facility at Y-12 where they store uranium; is  
 18 that right?  
 19 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir, it is.  
 20 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And CNS?  
 21 MR. DWYER: CNS is Consolidated Nuclear  
 22 Security. That's the contractor that supports Y-12 and  
 23 Pantex operations.  
 24 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay, thank you. So, quickly  
 25 back to slide 32, which says lessons learned from WIPP,

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1 so just to clarify, these are -- you're referring here to  
 2 lessons -- this is DNFSB lessons learned about DNFSB; is  
 3 that correct?  
 4 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir. This is internal to the  
 5 Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.  
 6 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay, because I point out on a  
 7 later slide, 40, 41, you use similar language, lessons  
 8 learned from WIPP having to do with U1a, but I think  
 9 there you're referring to NNSA's applying lessons that  
 10 the Department of Energy learned from WIPP to U1a; is  
 11 that correct?  
 12 MR. DWYER: Absolutely, sir.  
 13 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And back on slide 29, so,  
 14 if I look at the practical impact statement there, when  
 15 you spoke to this, Mr. Dwyer, you talked about LANL being  
 16 highest because of the amount of material at risk and its  
 17 proximity to the public. But you have a statement on  
 18 there that says, "the current state of operations at LANL  
 19 make it the highest of these three." So, you didn't  
 20 actually talk on this slide about operations; you later  
 21 talked about operations and some of the issues.  
 22 So, if you could just clarify, how much of --  
 23 you know, the fact that LANL is of your highest concern,  
 24 how much of that is due to the fact that it simply has  
 25 material close to the public and how much is due to the

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1 current state of operations?  
 2 MR. DWYER: I would say that the current state  
 3 of operations to which I was referring was the problems  
 4 at Area G. And, so, right now, we don't have a good  
 5 handle on what is the risk, and that's why that one is a  
 6 higher priority for us.  
 7 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. So, can you explain that  
 8 a little more, please.  
 9 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir. So, in this case, the  
 10 material of concern is plutonium. In this case, the  
 11 proximity to the public is almost the shortest of all the  
 12 sites. The quantities -- I will speak in round numbers  
 13 -- are in tens of thousands of plutonium-equivalent  
 14 curies, in sum. And the frequency of the accidents at  
 15 present remains indeterminate. So, for that reason, the  
 16 calculus that gets us to the risk to the public, which is  
 17 basically the frequency times the consequence, could be  
 18 very high. That's why we're concerned.  
 19 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you. And my last  
 20 question actually goes to Dr. Poloski. So, you had a  
 21 slide in this that referred to issues you're tracking at  
 22 LANL, and you had another slide, issues you're tracking  
 23 at Y-12. And as the Chairman explained before, these  
 24 presentations are not set up exactly in parallel with how  
 25 our organization internally is set up. So, I think the

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1 second half of what you pay attention to will come in the  
 2 next presentation dealing with EM and their facility  
 3 infrastructure items that you're tracking.  
 4 So, what I'm going to ask you is of the things  
 5 that you've presented so far, is there anything that is  
 6 of a significant concern? And if the significant  
 7 concerns are still to come in EM, you can just say that  
 8 and we'll wait on after that presentation.  
 9 DR. POLOSKI: Yes, you're correct that we're  
 10 going to cover the EM topics in the next presentation for  
 11 NFDI. You know, in terms of, you know, elements that I  
 12 think might need some more attention, you know, we have  
 13 been following the extended life program at the Y-12  
 14 facility. Some of those facilities are going to be on  
 15 the order of 50 to 100 years old at the end of the  
 16 mission. Well, I guess right now they're 50; they're  
 17 going to be 100 years old at the end of the extended life  
 18 mission.  
 19 And the process that they go about recertifying  
 20 that these facilities are safe and can adequately perform  
 21 their function was kind of mentioned on the direct  
 22 electrolytic reduction bullet on the slide, and I think  
 23 that that's an area that probably warrants a little bit  
 24 more attention from the Board. Does that answer your  
 25 questions, sir?



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1 MR. SULLIVAN: It does. I'll just say for the  
 2 record I hope to be about 100 years old at the end of my  
 3 extended life.  
 4 DR. POLOSKI: Yeah.  
 5 MS. CONNERY: Do you have any other questions?  
 6 Mr. Santos?  
 7 MR. SANTOS: Just one observation. Can you go  
 8 back to the slides of lessons learned on WIPP for us, 20?  
 9 Yeah, that one right there.  
 10 One of the things I observed after WIPP is that  
 11 how quickly I was able to find Board previous  
 12 correspondence on topics that had direct connection to  
 13 the events at WIPP. It's like the Board was able to  
 14 prophesize a little bit on it. But when I digged on it,  
 15 there was a lack of followup on the issues. It's like  
 16 the Board was able to do a review; identify issues years  
 17 in advance; but then something happened that they weren't  
 18 really followed up to completion; and events happened  
 19 that could have been, like the Accident Investigation  
 20 Board concluded, prevented.  
 21 Are any of your efforts associated to looking  
 22 at some of the already previously issued Board  
 23 correspondence and how good we do of following up on  
 24 those identified issues so that we don't have a similar  
 25 situation on the other sides? For example, I'm referring

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1 to, like, on the fire hazard analysis as an example that  
 2 -- on WIPP.  
 3 MR. DWYER: If you're speaking to WIPP in  
 4 particular, I'm going to defer that to John, since --  
 5 MR. SANTOS: I'm speaking in general. The  
 6 observation is that the Board has previously communicated  
 7 the identified issues, but I think there was a little bit  
 8 of a breakdown in the followup. So, to me, that's a  
 9 lesson learned for us.  
 10 I was wondering if an element of that is being  
 11 factored in your efforts for your sites, you know, going  
 12 back to old Board correspondence, your tracking systems,  
 13 what items we really don't have a good resolution on,  
 14 even though they have been already identified. That's  
 15 all.  
 16 MR. DWYER: Yes, sir. Well, so, the -- for  
 17 WIPP in particular, as I said, I'll tee John up, but for  
 18 -- yes, sir, for following issues to closure, I would  
 19 actually submit that if you captured any of my staff in  
 20 the hallway, they would tell you that they live in terror  
 21 of me asking them about updates to the tracking system.  
 22 So, yes, sir, we do that. I know that we follow up on  
 23 safety issues, even if they're staff safety issues, and  
 24 they have not risen yet to the level of being subject to  
 25 Board correspondence. We do follow through with the

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1 Department, and we do continue to pick at the scab, if  
 2 you will, until we can be satisfied that the requirements  
 3 are being met.  
 4 MR. SANTOS: Thank you.  
 5 MS. CONNERY: Any other questions? I'll take a  
 6 moment to just ask one, Mr. Dwyer. When you talked about  
 7 the factors that affect priorities, which I think I  
 8 understand, you know, the risks, the type and quantity of  
 9 materials, the process and setting of operations  
 10 involved, later on in your presentation you talked about  
 11 specific issues with maintenance and also with  
 12 infrastructure. And I just wanted to get, if you could,  
 13 a little bit of an assessment from you as to how much the  
 14 degradation of infrastructure actually impacts your risk  
 15 prioritization.  
 16 MR. DWYER: Actually, the degradation of  
 17 infrastructure at Y-12 is a particular aspect that has  
 18 caused us to raise particular reviews higher in the  
 19 priority list, so it does impact that. If you look at  
 20 facilities that are falling down around their ears that  
 21 are still being used, you find, for example, at Y-12 that  
 22 they have a real problem there. You find at Pantex, for  
 23 example, those tend to be facilities that are not used  
 24 for nuclear explosive operations. They have other  
 25 operations going on in there that from their perspective

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1 deserve better protection and they're working on such  
 2 things, but not that would be within our purview.  
 3 So, for example, at Pantex, they've just  
 4 designed and built a new high explosive pressing  
 5 facility. They needed to do that for those very reasons,  
 6 but it's not something that we were pursuing. Same thing  
 7 at Los Alamos. They've had an ongoing struggle with how  
 8 will they maintain plutonium operations now and into the  
 9 future, given the facilities that they have there. So,  
 10 they've been wrestling with that problem. Their  
 11 decisions actually have a huge impact on what it is we're  
 12 looking at.  
 13 So, when Adam spoke to looking at the plutonium  
 14 infrastructure at Los Alamos, that's a direct result of  
 15 the fact that they have to get out of CMR, the Chemistry  
 16 and Metallurgy Research facility, Mr. Sullivan. And in  
 17 order to do that, you have to -- you have to make  
 18 operational room for the mission. And, so, they are  
 19 struggling with: How do we do that? Where can we put  
 20 these things? What design and construction projects have  
 21 to be executed? What refurbishment can take place. So,  
 22 that's kind of a roundabout answer, but that's the best I  
 23 can do.  
 24 MS. CONNERY: That's perfect. Thank you so  
 25 much.

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1 Any other questions?  
 2 (No response.)  
 3 MS. CONNERY: If not, we'll ask Mr. Pasko to  
 4 join us. Let me get my script out.  
 5 So, I'm going to recognize Mr. John Pasko, the  
 6 Board's Group Lead for Materials Processing and  
 7 Stabilization, who will join Dr. Poloski at the  
 8 presenters table and they will report to the Board on the  
 9 OTD's work -- Office of Technical Director's Work Plan  
 10 Activities for Fiscal Year 2016 related to the Department  
 11 of Energy's Environmental Management Program issues. Mr.  
 12 Pasko.  
 13 MR. PASKO: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam  
 14 Vice Chair, members of the Board, members of the staff,  
 15 members of DOE and the public. Good afternoon, and thank  
 16 you for the opportunity to present to you today the plan  
 17 for the Nuclear Materials Stabilization and Processing  
 18 Groups work in Fiscal Year 2016.  
 19 Before I get started, I think a partial answer  
 20 to your question about how do we track, you know,  
 21 outstanding issues. My understanding is the Board would  
 22 like us to, on a rotating basis, do a kind of deep dive  
 23 each month on different sites throughout the year. So,  
 24 we haven't heard yet what the Board's desires are, but  
 25 we're planning on either starting off with Savannah River

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1 or Los Alamos.  
 2 And I'm surprised Tim didn't mention this, but  
 3 Tim and I and the site cogs and the site reps have gotten  
 4 together and tried to put together a plan what that deep  
 5 dive would consist of. And one of the things is a review  
 6 of the outstanding items at IACTS and another is a review  
 7 of previous correspondence to see if we can identify any  
 8 issues. So, I think we're going to do what you have in  
 9 mind.  
 10 MR. SANTOS: I appreciate that. Thank you.  
 11 MR. PASKO: And I think Mr. Dwyer owes me a big  
 12 thank you for handling that for him.  
 13 MR. SANTOS: Before Sean jumps at you, what's  
 14 IACTS stands for?  
 15 MR. PASKO: Oh, it's the issues and concerns  
 16 tracking system. It might be on a sheet up there. I do  
 17 have a couple that didn't make my list of -- of  
 18 abbreviations, but I'll -- I promise you I'll cover them  
 19 verbally before I use them.  
 20 I guess at this time we ought to go to the next  
 21 slide. This is very similar to slides you've seen  
 22 before. The NMPS work plan flows from the agency's  
 23 objectives as outlined in the strategic plan. Our intent  
 24 is to improve the safety of operations at the six DOE  
 25 environmental management sites under the Board's purview,

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1 as you can see on the slide. The plan is an effort to  
 2 perform independent and timely oversight, thereby  
 3 strengthening the safety posture. Next slide, please.  
 4 NMPS utilizes just under a quarter of the  
 5 Board's assets, the technical staff's personnel  
 6 resources. And once I discuss what the why's and the  
 7 what's are for next year, I'll show you a pie chart that  
 8 shows you how we break that down amongst those EM sites.  
 9 Next slide, please.  
 10 What? Well, the safe start of the Waste  
 11 Isolation Pilot Plant is of paramount concern. The  
 12 restart's necessary to relieve the risk associated with  
 13 the transuranic waste holdup at the various generators  
 14 sites. There also exists the possibility of increased  
 15 schedule pressure as the calendar year 2016 progresses  
 16 and we approach the proclaimed startup date.  
 17 And, finally, we have and will continue to play  
 18 a key role in the review and revision of their safety  
 19 basis documents. So, that's basically the background on  
 20 the WIPP. We also will continue an effort that we began  
 21 last year, and it's in keeping with what Chris talked  
 22 about as one of his -- with the crosscutting issues, but  
 23 we want to continue to review the adequacy of safety  
 24 basis based on risk to the public and workers, complexity  
 25 of operations, and time since last reviewed. I'll

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1 mention the specific targets in just a moment. Next  
 2 slide, please.  
 3 We also intend to continue to focus on safety  
 4 management programs as an indicator of how strong the  
 5 foundation is at each of the various sites and  
 6 facilities. As you'll see, there's a bias this year  
 7 towards WIPP. In order to ensure our reviews take place  
 8 in a timely enough manner to support their restart  
 9 efforts, we have three safety management programs I'll  
 10 list later that we intend to follow closely.  
 11 There's also an effort this year to continue to  
 12 follow the major new construction projects to ensure  
 13 safety is included in the design and that safety issues  
 14 are identified early in the process. Dr. Poloski will  
 15 discuss those. I didn't put them on separate slides.  
 16 They're at the bottom of my individual site slides, so  
 17 I'll let Adam speak to those. Next slide, please.  
 18 This slide shows the breakdown of the work  
 19 amongst EM sites. As you can see, WIPP gets about a  
 20 quarter of our effort, and Hanford/Savannah River  
 21 combined is about half. Again, we shifted the emphasis a  
 22 little bit from Savannah River to Hanford this year to --  
 23 and I'll discuss why we did that here in a minute.  
 24 And before I get into -- next slide, please.  
 25 Before I get into details, I'd like to take a moment and

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1 highlight what I think is particularly important. I'm  
 2 very proud of what the NMPS Group accomplished in 2015.  
 3 And I believe we've made a measurable improvement in  
 4 safety at several of the EM sites. First of all,  
 5 following on the heel of the risk rankings that we  
 6 completed at Savannah River in 2014, we went and risk-  
 7 ranked the facilities at Idaho and Hanford. And the  
 8 results of those have been used to inform initially last  
 9 year's plan and then going forward this year's plan.

10 Additionally, group review identified four  
 11 potential inadequacies of safety analysis that resulted  
 12 in positive unreviewed safety questions at Idaho's -- I  
 13 don't believe this makes my acronym list -- Idaho's  
 14 Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, AMWTP, and  
 15 Savannah River's Defense Waste Processing Facility.

16 At AMWTP, safety basis concerns regarding  
 17 assumptions made regarding fires and propane explosions  
 18 were not adequately developed. We strengthened the  
 19 actual safety basis, but also I think we challenged the  
 20 site office at Idaho to how come those -- you know, those  
 21 concerns hadn't been previously identified. So, I think  
 22 we had an overall -- a factor of improvement there at the  
 23 site.

24 At Savannah River, the two PISAs were  
 25 identified with the Defense Waste Processing Facility in

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1 the flow that essentially would associate the amount of  
 2 flammable gas buildup and explosive hazards. Again, they  
 3 both resulted in positive USQs, and I think we've made --  
 4 not only identified weaknesses that will strengthen their  
 5 safety basis, but we identified a process problem with  
 6 the way they use models to predict their flow sheet. So,  
 7 I think we've got that -- we made some positive impact  
 8 there, as well.

9 Moving on, I'll talk specifically site by site.  
 10 Next slide, please. WIPP, I also wanted to let you know  
 11 that I put pictures on these because I thought it would  
 12 be the end of the day, things might be slowing down a  
 13 little bit, that they might help distract you. But at  
 14 WIPP, we've got a couple things at WIPP we're doing. One  
 15 is the consolidated evaluation of safety. There are  
 16 numerous ESSs that were produced since the February 2014  
 17 events that have some difficult and technical safety  
 18 requirements and sometimes conflicting.

19 In late April, there had been six TSR  
 20 violations identified, which led the site to commit to  
 21 revising that -- the ESS into a combined ESS. Also,  
 22 their planned revision five to their documented safety  
 23 analysis is a big requirement. It's a step that needs to  
 24 be done to strengthen that safety basis, and it's a key  
 25 part of their restart activities. We have actually

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1 completed reviews on both of those and submitted our  
 2 comments and agenda items to the Department of Energy.  
 3 Next on the list is the oversight of generator  
 4 sites. This is something we're going to take a look at  
 5 this year. We know that the National TRU Program checks  
 6 and balances was obviously a fragile system because one  
 7 error at one site resulted in a breakdown that  
 8 essentially took WIPP offline. So, I've not yet seen  
 9 strong evidence that this problem has been solved. And  
 10 there are plans to do reviews at the generator sites and  
 11 to make changes to the true waste program. I have a  
 12 little bit of a concern that I don't have a lot of  
 13 visibility on what that is yet, so that's an area we  
 14 promise to focus on.

15 Again, as I mentioned, we're going to continue  
 16 our look at the -- those three safety maintenance  
 17 programs. And as a result of that, kind of biases SMPs  
 18 to WIPP. My resources are kind of focused at WIPP. I  
 19 don't have -- you know, in order to be able to support  
 20 readiness activities towards the end of the year, I need  
 21 to make sure that these get done. So, you'll see I'm  
 22 biased at looking at safety programs at WIPP versus the  
 23 other sites.

24 Again, readiness activities are on the schedule  
 25 to be supported, and I'll let Adam talk about the

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1 permanent ventilation system.  
 2 DR. POLOSKI: Yeah, so, at the WIPP facility,  
 3 they're currently undergoing a major modification process  
 4 to add a new underground ventilation system. The NFDI  
 5 group will focus in on performing reviews as they  
 6 transition from a conceptual design into preliminary  
 7 design.

8 MR. PASKO: Okay, next slide, please.

9 At Hanford, with greater stability with my  
 10 cognizant engineers in an effort to rebalance the efforts  
 11 between the two sites, I've shifted the effort in  
 12 Hanford's favor this year. Key areas include the  
 13 demolition of the plutonium finishing plant, which is  
 14 slated to complete -- to be on slab at the end of  
 15 September 2016. We also intend to do two consolidated  
 16 reviews, consolidated between the Hanford and Savannah  
 17 River sites, one on tank farms and one on site  
 18 transportation.

19 We hope to utilize the same teams to conduct  
 20 reviews at both sites to be able to gain from the  
 21 knowledge of comparing one to the other. They're both --  
 22 those tank farm DSAs are pretty extensive, and it's a  
 23 stretch -- I think it's a stretch to try and think I'll  
 24 get them both done this year, but I intend to get them  
 25 both started.

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1 Also, we're going to look at the Redox and the  
2 Purex facilities at Hanford. Adam?

3 DR. POLOSKI: The Waste Treatment Plant at  
4 Hanford is a big focus for the NFDI Group. We're going  
5 to be changing direction from the baseline design to  
6 focusing in on direct feed of low-activity waste into the  
7 facility and the low activity waste pretreatment system  
8 capability that the Department of Energy is planning to  
9 build to start operations as early as possible to clean  
10 up the tank waste.

11 And we're also focusing in on outstanding Board  
12 issues and resolutions of those issues at the Waste  
13 Treatment Plant. There are several right now that have  
14 been open for several years, and we're -- the Department  
15 is making progress in resolving those, and we're trying  
16 to keep track of that progress.

17 MR. PASKO: Next slide, please. Savannah  
18 River. We intend to complete reviews begun in 2015 on  
19 both the Savannah River National Laboratory safety basis  
20 and criticality safety at H-Canyon/HB-Line. Please  
21 excuse my error. The "intend to use same teams" bullet  
22 should be under tank farm safety basis as it is under  
23 transportation. I apologize. I noted the error after  
24 they'd been posted.

25 NFDI -- well, I think we intend to start the

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1 transportation review at Savannah River. That's been a -  
2 - that's been a pet peeve of one of the site reps down  
3 there, Dan Burnfield, so we're going to try and take a  
4 look there. And we weren't able to get to that last  
5 year, so that's a carryover into Fiscal Year 2016.

6 Adam, you want to talk a little bit about salt  
7 waste?

8 DR. POLOSKI: Sure. So, at the Savannah River  
9 site, one of the main areas of NFDI focus is the salt  
10 waste processing facility or SWPF. They're finishing  
11 construction of that facility right now, and they're  
12 going to be transitioning it into operations here within  
13 the next year or two, and they will be generating a  
14 documented safety analysis that we will plan to review in  
15 the near future.

16 MR. PASKO: I am in the process of developing  
17 an information paper to outline for the Board's -- for  
18 your use how we intend to do that transition, what we  
19 intend to look at. Construction should complete next  
20 year; we expect the operations to follow two years later.  
21 So, we're a little early in the game yet, but I want to  
22 put together a plan and I have several options with  
23 personnel moves I might make to identify a lead, but I'm  
24 not ready to commit to that yet. But we are working on  
25 that, on the operational plan to support startup.

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1 Next slide, Idaho. Idaho focus areas, the  
2 group will continue to closely follow the startup of the  
3 Integrated Waste Treatment Unit. The facility's  
4 currently about one week into a three-week effort to  
5 complete simulated testing. After that, they'll do a  
6 shutdown to verify plant alterations performed, as  
7 predicted. And if all continues to go well, it should be  
8 processing radioactive waste in early 2016. Every time I  
9 say that, I get a text message saying, hey, something  
10 else -- we had another problem out there, but -- they  
11 recently had problems with the filter housings. It turns  
12 out there wasn't a gap and the expansion of the filters  
13 inside the housings caused cracking. They think they  
14 have that solved, and they've been back up for about a  
15 week now.

16 We have already this year completed a review of  
17 the instrumentation and control at IWUTU; did not find any  
18 significant issues. And we are gathering documents now  
19 in support of a review of the Radioactive Waste  
20 Management Complex documented safety analysis. This  
21 ranked out is number two of our risk -- when we performed  
22 our risk ranking last year. So, we hope to get that done  
23 this year. Next slide, please.

24 Oak Ridge National Laboratory. We are looking  
25 at the Transuranic Waste Processing Center. As I'm sure

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1 you're aware, the contractor changed out recently, and  
2 we've been out looking at conduct of operations as the  
3 new contractor has taken over. We also are preparing a  
4 safety basis agenda or to review that safety basis. And,  
5 lastly, we're --

6 DR. POLOSKI: Yeah, they're performing a major  
7 modification of that facility called the Sludge Buildout  
8 Project. And they're in preliminary design. We're going  
9 to be reviewing design documents as they're produced on  
10 that effort.

11 MR. PASKO: Right. Next slide.

12 A couple of additional focus areas. We also  
13 look at open Board recommendations. We have both 2012-1,  
14 where we intend to closely watch the work on the -- that  
15 they've commenced on the four least contaminated  
16 plutonium cells, cells six through nine. We were down  
17 there last week. In fact, they had the windows off --  
18 the outer windows off.

19 And we're conducting some NDA -- improved NDA  
20 measurements to hope they can -- they can prove their  
21 technique out and, you know, identify where the hot spots  
22 are prior to turning around to cells one through five.  
23 And we have -- we will be closely following the response  
24 to recent Board correspondence on what their plan is  
25 through Fiscal Year 16 and 17.

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1 At Hanford, we'll continue to closely follow  
2 the open recommendation, 2012, on flammable gas controls  
3 at the tank farms. We've recently received contractor  
4 submittal of Implementation Plan Deliverable 2-1. We owe  
5 you a brief when we're complete our review of that. And  
6 DOE is also on track to provide the Board a brief. It  
7 will probably be in early January 2016. Next slide.

8 Uncertainties. In keeping with the direction  
9 that I received last year, I'll comment on the things  
10 that lead to uncertainty in our plan. They're similar to  
11 what you've heard from Tim. Much of our plan is  
12 contingent on EM's progress in areas such as WIPP's  
13 restart, IWTU, and PFP. So, if they slide, we slide.

14 We've been able to successfully -- at least at  
15 IWTU -- take those assets and roll them back into the  
16 plan. So, I think we -- you know, they're doable do's.  
17 We also face challenges associated with EM's resources  
18 and the potential for a continuing resolution. Many of  
19 the things that we are looking at, though, aren't  
20 contingent on Environmental Management, either their  
21 schedule or their budget.

22 And, so, I believe the lion's share of what we  
23 have we'll conduct as planned. I will also say that  
24 there are some -- there's some potential for things to  
25 change as the various sites fail to meet milestones and

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1 they have interactions with their regulator groups. It  
2 might impact our workload. For instance, if the Board's  
3 asked to comment on a delay in one area or another.

4 Cascading impacts can result in resource  
5 conflicts. And, again, emergent things could always take  
6 precedence of what we have planned.

7 Subject to my -- to your questions, this  
8 completes my prepared remarks. Thank you again for the  
9 opportunity to tell you what we're trying to do in 2016  
10 and for publicly letting me get on the record how proud I  
11 am of the NMPS Group efforts and results in 2015. Thank  
12 you.

13 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Dr. Pasko. So, shall  
14 we start with the acronym, please, Mr. Sullivan?

15 MR. SULLIVAN: Sure. I had high hopes based on  
16 your promising start that you would do better than Mr.  
17 Dwyer, and my hopes were dashed. So, the National TRU  
18 program, is that the opposite of the National False  
19 Program? What is --

20 MR. PASKO: The National Transuranic Waste  
21 Program, sir.

22 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you very much. TSR, ESS,  
23 you --

24 MR. PASKO: TSR are technical safety  
25 requirements, and ESS -- I think it was on the slide.

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1 That combined is an evaluation of safety situation.

2 MR. SULLIVAN: All right, so we'll give you  
3 half credit for that. Redux and Purex?

4 MR. PASKO: Are -- they're the acronyms that  
5 two of the canyons at Hanford are the process used to  
6 dissolve fuel and --

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Neither one of those are  
8 currently in service; is that correct?

9 MR. PASKO: No, sir, they're both -- they're  
10 both shut down.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. And you said NDA  
12 measurements.

13 MR. PASKO: That's --

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Nondestructive assay?

15 MR. PASKO: Nondestructive assay. I was having  
16 trouble with the D. I was going to look over at Rich,  
17 who played a big role in getting my acronyms.

18 MR. SULLIVAN: So, explain to the public what  
19 is that. What is nondestructive assay?

20 MR. PASKO: It's a use of instrumentation to  
21 take measurements to be able to predict what -- what  
22 material is in the location and where it's located. It's  
23 pretty important when, you know, you're talking about  
24 trying to de-inventory and then, you know, take down a  
25 structure like PFP. You need to know where the materials

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1 are and --

2 MR. SULLIVAN: It's a hard business to do  
3 without acronyms, isn't it? Okay. So, if nobody else  
4 had an acronym.

5 MS. CONNERY: You passed.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: If we can go back to slide 52  
7 for a minute.

8 MR. PASKO: Fifty-two.

9 MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

10 MR. PASKO: Okay.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: So, you have oversight of  
12 generator sites up here. Are we looking -- are we going  
13 to apply assets at WIPP for that? Or are we going to  
14 apply assets in other places because --

15 MR. PASKO: Yes.

16 MR. SULLIVAN: Let me just -- let me just  
17 finish my question. So, let's go back two slides to  
18 slide 50. So, on slide 50, you've got up there, you've  
19 got a little tiny sliver of the pie that says LANL, 0.1.  
20 So, that was the site where they actually generated waste  
21 that led to the WIPP accident. So, are we going back to  
22 LANL to look, as well as other places?

23 MR. PASKO: Well, we'll have to look at LANL,  
24 what LANL -- upgrades LANL does to their program, but I'm  
25 involved in LANL because of the -- there's a bridge

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1 contract in place now between NNSA and EM with respect to  
2 Area G and the transuranic waste facilities. And, so, as  
3 you know, the sister drum of the drum that caused the  
4 February 14th event in 2014 is still there at Area G.  
5 And, so, I am in -- I have personnel involved in the  
6 oversight of their planning to remediate those drums and  
7 the impact on the safety basis until those drums are  
8 remediated. So --

9 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay, so -- but for clarity, on  
10 slide 52, where it says we're going to look at oversight  
11 of generator sites, we're looking at the oversight of  
12 generator sites that's done by the folks at WIPP? Is  
13 that -- that's what we're looking at as --

14 MR. PASKO: No --

15 MR. SULLIVAN: -- opposed to ourselves directly  
16 looking at the --

17 MR. PASKO: -- we're going to look at it from a  
18 national -- from the national transuranic program's  
19 perspective. Now, you know, they're -- Idaho is a  
20 generator site. They've got -- they've got hundreds of  
21 shipments in abeyance waiting for WIPP to reopen.  
22 Hanford hasn't sent anything to WIPP in years, but they  
23 will have transuranic waste shipments. We have waste  
24 accumulated at Oak Ridge National Lab, and I want to make  
25 sure that the changes to the transuranic waste program

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1 that are put in place to preclude another event like the  
2 Area G WIPP event that they actually are -- that they  
3 actually are robust enough to give us confidence and that  
4 they are actually at the various generator sites, are  
5 actually being -- you know, we've looked at them close  
6 enough to have confidence that they're being implemented  
7 properly.

8 So, the question is it's from a trans -- it's  
9 from a programmatic side, but we're going to have to look  
10 at the individual sites. Does that answer your question?

11 MR. SULLIVAN: It does. Specifically with  
12 respect to Los Alamos, those individuals made errors --  
13 technical errors -- that resulted in procedures that said  
14 mixed waste with an absorbent that was organic when it  
15 should have been inorganic. So, has anybody -- whether  
16 it's us, DOE, you talked about a bridge contract --  
17 oversight of that or responsibility for that is shifting  
18 from NNSA to EM? Who's gone back to the Los Alamos folks  
19 and looked and said whatever their problem was, they  
20 fixed their problem. Do we know?

21 MR. PASKO: That was -- that will be contingent  
22 upon LANL being able to ship waste, but at this time, it  
23 will probably -- it will be NNSA that does that. They're  
24 still responsible for the -- during the run of the bridge  
25 contract, which they expect to run about a year and a

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1 half. That's still NNSA is the prime responsible party  
2 for the -- for what's taking place at Area G.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Has that happened yet or  
4 are they --

5 MR. PASKO: No, sir. I don't think it's  
6 happened.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: -- are they mixing any waste out  
8 there? Or are they currently still --

9 MR. PASKO: I believe they're essentially shut  
10 down, based on the four pieces that are open out there;  
11 they have some significant issues to work through before  
12 they're handling waste. I think the first site that's  
13 going to get scrubbed will be Idaho. And as you may or  
14 may not be aware, as part of the 5506 effort, there was  
15 an -- there was a request that went out to the various  
16 generator sites to discuss any nitrated waste that they  
17 had processed.

18 And I've seen the response come back on half of  
19 the complex. There are 133 drums, I believe, that  
20 contain some nitrates at the Oak Ridge site. And we're  
21 looking at that data, but apparently they were all lab  
22 quantities of nitrates and deemed not to be necessarily a  
23 concern to WIPP.

24 MR. SULLIVAN: All right. And for the public,  
25 what did you mean by the 5506 effort?

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1 MR. PASKO: It's a standard that the  
2 transuranic manual essentially tells you how to -- how to  
3 build a safety basis, what kind of material at risk  
4 assumptions to make, and what kind of factors to use in  
5 determining what the dose consequence from various size  
6 transuranic waste arrays --

7 MR. SULLIVAN: So, the effort you referred to  
8 was in light of the accident at WIPP. DOE went back and  
9 looked at what their own standard told them they should  
10 be doing, and they found some areas that they needed to  
11 go figure out.

12 MR. PASKO: For example, the ARFRF that they're  
13 using at WIPP is .205 as opposed to one-time standardized  
14 fourth. There's a significant change there. That's one  
15 -- that's the subject of one of the open PISAs at Area G  
16 at Los Alamos. They're also -- they plan to -- I know --  
17 they're going to enter into one of your favorite -- one  
18 of your favorite processes, RevCom. We're waiting for  
19 the statement that precludes that opening of that  
20 standard for revision. But we expect that to happen  
21 within the next month or two.

22 MR. SULLIVAN: All right, thanks.

23 Dr. Poloski, same question I had before for  
24 you. So, you've had several things mentioned in here,  
25 but in terms of priorities, what are you worried about

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1 here in the construction world of the environmental  
2 management at DOE?

3 DR. POLOSKI: So, we had a bullet that talked  
4 about the Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford. I believe  
5 that cleaning up the tank waste at Hanford, the tanks are  
6 degrading, going to be releasing into the environment.  
7 So, from an environmental standpoint, I think it's  
8 important to clean it up. It also introduces new hazards  
9 as the -- as those systems degrade over time.

10 So, cleaning up the waste effectively and  
11 efficiently and starting up the low-activity waste  
12 pretreatment system and the direct feed, I think, should  
13 be, you know, a priority, make sure that that's done  
14 safely.

15 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you.

16 MS. CONNERY: Other Board Members? Ms.  
17 Roberson?

18 MS. ROBERSON: Two questions. Slide 51, Mr.  
19 Pasko. When we talk about risk-ranking the DSAs at Idaho  
20 and Hanford, did you have a different risk criteria or a  
21 subset of what Mr. Stokes went through early on?

22 MR. PASKO: No, ma'am. We use essentially the  
23 same --

24 MS. ROBERSON: The same criteria, okay. And,  
25 then, on 52, when we talk about the safety maintenance

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1 programs, maybe I misunderstood, but I understood your  
2 resources are kind of getting sucked up in looking at  
3 these safety management programs for WIPP.

4 MR. PASKO: Right.

5 MS. ROBERSON: How -- first -- a two-part  
6 question. One is who would be second? What site would  
7 be second? And number two, how are we making sure that  
8 we benefit from the investment we're putting at WIPP when  
9 we go to the other sites to look at similar programs?  
10 Does that make sense?

11 MR. PASKO: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. ROBERSON: Okay.

13 MR. PASKO: Conduct of operations at Savannah  
14 River would be high on the list that we may not cover.  
15 I'm also interested in electrical safety and aging  
16 infrastructure of the electrical network at Hanford.  
17 They would be my next two. And I have limited ability to  
18 use our electrical folks, so we're going to look at  
19 electrical distribution here.

20 Fire protection is one that's in demand  
21 everywhere, but we're going to -- again, I think we need  
22 to -- we need to focus here so that we get a review done  
23 in support of the readiness activities when -- you know,  
24 as the year 2016 comes to an end and they want to do --  
25 they want to do startup activities. So, that's why I

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1 biased them here.

2 Now, your second question is a little bit more  
3 challenging to answer. You know, that's something that  
4 applies everywhere, you know? How do -- you do a review;  
5 how do you -- how do you then take credit for what you  
6 learned at this place and be able to add it into the --  
7 to what you're looking at going forward. I mean, that's  
8 exactly what we're trying to do with the combined tank  
9 farm review and transportation DSA.

10 From the safety maintenance programs, these --  
11 we do a pretty good job of capturing the lessons learned  
12 and reapplying them to site, but this crosses over into  
13 the NPA area, and I guess the best way I can tell you to  
14 do that is we tend to try to keep key members at our  
15 reviews focused on these areas. You know, Tim Hunt does  
16 maintenance; and Don Owens does conduct of operations.  
17 So, we try to -- I think that's probably how we best  
18 capture that. I don't think we have a formal process,  
19 though.

20 MS. ROBERSON: Okay.

21 MR. PASKO: That may be something that you  
22 might want us to look at. Does that answer your  
23 question, ma'am?

24 MS. ROBERSON: Yes. Thank you.

25 MR. PASKO: Thank you.

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1 MS. CONNERY: So, can I just clarify your  
2 answer to Ms. Roberson? So, because of the resources  
3 that you're putting into WIPP, you're saying that you're  
4 not going to be able to conduct reviews of conduct of  
5 operations at Savannah River?

6 MR. PASKO: We are going to do conduct of  
7 operations at TWPC at Oak Ridge, and I have -- I don't  
8 have the assets to really cover that.

9 MS. CONNERY: It's not like kind of fighting  
10 the last war?

11 MR. PASKO: Excuse me, ma'am?

12 MS. CONNERY: Isn't that a little bit like  
13 fighting the last war? Disregard.

14 MR. PASKO: I hope that -- that the fact that  
15 they've been paused for three months and bringing  
16 themselves back into deliberate operations will -- you  
17 know, their own look would supplement our site. And we  
18 always have the site reps there, so it's not like we're  
19 totally ignoring it. But as far as it goes to those  
20 areas, again, I think it's in order to not be a delay and  
21 a roadblock in the startup of WIPP, we need to do these  
22 reviews as a priority.

23 MS. CONNERY: So, that leads me into my next  
24 question, which was actually helpfully brought up by you,  
25 which is the site reps. So, when you guys do your pie

1 charts, and I should have asked Mr. Dwyer this, as well,  
 2 do any of those resources also represent your site reps?  
 3 Or how are they calculated into the resource --  
 4 MR. PASKO: We don't add the site reps in  
 5 because -- so, they don't show up in the pie charts.  
 6 They're not assigned in the work plan. So, they would be  
 7 an addition to -- I guess we include them and you'd see  
 8 the manned sites, Savannah River and Hanford, grow a  
 9 little bit in size. Does that answer your question,  
 10 ma'am?  
 11 MS. CONNERY: Yes. You mean the staffed sites?  
 12 Any more questions for Mr. Pasko?  
 13 MR. SANTOS: Yes. I just want to say for the  
 14 record that hope is not a strategy I like. This meeting  
 15 is not about WIPP, so I'm not going to make it about WIPP  
 16 and help me out. So, I guess I'm trying to ask, as you  
 17 know, there are still sub-spectrums in the underground.  
 18 The potential for a fire still exists. They have taken  
 19 some actions in the interim, and there's a lot of effort  
 20 focused on ESS, DSA, safety programs, a lot of paper  
 21 exercises and training.  
 22 Can you comment on how effective have you and  
 23 your staff been in influencing some of the compensatory  
 24 measures that have taken or need to be taken now at WIPP?  
 25 MR. PASKO: Well, I think right off the bat we

1 made a huge impact on their ability to conduct drills.  
 2 You know, we observed a drill in December and February  
 3 last year and provided feedback to say you're not  
 4 adequately assessing your own performance. And I think  
 5 they took that to heart.  
 6 I think we've, as promised, I promised you last  
 7 year, I'm trying to -- and I've met the goal and then  
 8 some at WIPP of two man-weeks per month of oversight.  
 9 We've had -- we've identified numerous problems with  
 10 procedures, conduct of operations through those weeks of  
 11 oversight that we've supplied, and more recently in the  
 12 review of the consolidated ESS and Revision 5 to the DSA,  
 13 we found some problems with the sites -- now, these are  
 14 preliminary; they haven't signed these documents out --  
 15 but their ability to demonstrate with a sound technical  
 16 basis the protection of workers in the underground due to  
 17 the materials that are behind incomplete closures at Room  
 18 7, Panel 7, and at -- and at Panel 6.  
 19 And as you're aware, I wasn't at the meeting  
 20 last week, but it's our -- our efforts have resulted in  
 21 them formalizing the basis for air monitors and the alarm  
 22 set points, which is the one protective feature that, you  
 23 know, those alarms would be used to protect the workers.  
 24 Does that answer your question, sir?  
 25 MR. SANTOS: Yes.

1 MS. CONNERY: Any other questions?  
 2 (No response.)  
 3 MS. CONNERY: Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Pasko  
 4 and Mr. Poloski.  
 5 MR. PASKO: Thank you.  
 6 MS. CONNERY: So, we've got about an hour left,  
 7 and our next order of business is a Board discussion on  
 8 program issues and priorities, and then there will be  
 9 time for public comment. So, in order to meet our  
 10 timetable, I would suggest that we look at perhaps having  
 11 our Board discussion between now and 3:45. If we need to  
 12 go longer, we can, but that's my preliminary estimation  
 13 of the time schedule.  
 14 So, with that, I know this is a lot of  
 15 information to -- that's been presented to us, so I will  
 16 turn to my fellow Board Members to see if they would like  
 17 to start commenting. Ms. Roberson looked eager. Oh,  
 18 sorry.  
 19 Anyone? Mr. Sullivan?  
 20 MR. SULLIVAN: Never bashful. We've got a lot  
 21 of information here. What we don't have are a lot of  
 22 recent recommendations to the Secretary of Energy  
 23 providing advice on what we think may need to be done.  
 24 So, just I've heard an awful lot about concerns. There's  
 25 a whole slide that was given here, slide 35, concerns at

1 Los Alamos, that talked about continuing seismic concerns  
 2 at PF-4. We do have a recommendation on that, although  
 3 it's six years old and a bit out of date, in my view.  
 4 We sent them a technical report on material at  
 5 risk that essentially said the vast majority of the  
 6 material that they have in that building, they don't  
 7 actually need to have in that building. But we haven't  
 8 made any formal recommendations to the Secretary on what  
 9 to do with that.  
 10 There is -- there's issues at the Area G where  
 11 they store waste there, and this is the place where the  
 12 workforce actually made the error that led to the  
 13 accident at the -- at WIPP. So, there's a lot there, and  
 14 I'll just summarize by saying I'm concerned about it and  
 15 I'm trying to get my hands around what, if anything, I  
 16 should be making -- advising the Secretary of Energy.  
 17 So, I'm going to just implore the staff to come  
 18 forward if they have any such things and provide those.  
 19 I encourage the rest of the Board Members -- I mean, we  
 20 can talk about such things in a closed format, and I hope  
 21 that we will at some point in the future, to the extent  
 22 that we'd be talking about making actual recommendations.  
 23 I'm just trying now to simply say that I think there is -  
 24 - I think there is work there that we need to do as an  
 25 agency that we haven't done yet.



1 In addition to the issues at Los Alamos,  
 2 there's concern with the aging facilities at Y-12 and  
 3 still in the recovery from the accident at WIPP, you  
 4 know, whether or not the generator sites -- waste  
 5 generator sites actually have good quality assurance of  
 6 their procedures so that we don't have future problems  
 7 similar to the one that occurred at Los Alamos, leading  
 8 potentially to a future accidents like the ones at were  
 9 experienced at WIPP last February.

10 So, again, I'm simply mentioning that I see a  
 11 lot of things that sound to me like significant safety  
 12 issues. I compare those to what we have for outstanding  
 13 recommendations. We're not allowed to talk publicly  
 14 about recommendations that we might make until we  
 15 actually make them. I'm just taking this opportunity to  
 16 implore the staff to bring forward suggestions to the  
 17 Board that they might have on that. And I look forward  
 18 to having such discussions in an appropriate forum in the  
 19 future with my fellow Board Members. Thank you.

20 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.  
 21 Comments from other Board Members?  
 22 MR. HAMILTON: I do.  
 23 MS. CONNERY: Mr. Hamilton.  
 24 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you, Madam Chairman.  
 25 First of all, I want to thank Mr. Stokes and his staff

1 for putting together a very robust and complex set of  
 2 work plans. Underlying almost everything that was  
 3 contained in our staff's work plans is the prioritization  
 4 of the use of limited resources to evaluate the  
 5 consequences and likelihood of postulated accidents.

6 As the newest member of our Board, I've been  
 7 working hard to understand which defense nuclear  
 8 facilities demand our greatest attention. It's a complex  
 9 process as demonstrated by the staff effort on display  
 10 here today.

11 When I transitioned to the Defense Nuclear  
 12 Facilities Safety Board from the commercial nuclear power  
 13 industry, one of the first questions I had was whether  
 14 there existed a dashboard of safety status similar to the  
 15 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Reactor Oversight  
 16 Process. Apparently, there is not.

17 It took years for the NRC to develop the  
 18 Reactor Oversight Process, and I'm under no illusions  
 19 that building a dashboard for defense nuclear facilities  
 20 would be a simple effort. Nevertheless, I'm inclined to  
 21 think that a dashboard-type tool would be helpful to our  
 22 staff in harmonizing and stacking our priorities. I  
 23 would encourage each of us on the Board and our staff, as  
 24 well, to consider how such a product could begin to take  
 25 shape between now and the development of next year's work

1 plans.

2 This could be -- this could facilitate greater  
 3 unification in the prioritization of work and the  
 4 development of recommendations, as well as in providing  
 5 greater transparency to the public. So, I welcome your  
 6 comments and thoughts on that topic. Thank you.

7 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Hamilton. I look  
 8 to my other Board Members to comment. Ms. Roberson?  
 9 MS. ROBERSON: Okay, I'll comment. I like the  
 10 idea. Mr. Hamilton's raised it before. I think it helps  
 11 us act in a unified way and it ensures, I think, one of  
 12 the lessons we learned from -- we learned as an agency  
 13 from the WIPP accident and the lessons-learned assessment  
 14 done by the staff was to ensure that we are not just  
 15 paying attention to the big bouncing balls. It's  
 16 sometimes those activities we consider lower risk can  
 17 create big problems. And, so, having the opportunity to  
 18 look from a risk perspective from the Board, I think  
 19 would be a unifying exercise, both for the Board and for  
 20 the staff.

21 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Ms. Roberson.  
 22 Any other comment?  
 23 Well, I'd like to thank Mr. Hamilton for his  
 24 thoughtful commentary. He's been thinking about this for  
 25 a while. He's talked to each of us separately, and

1 recognizing that it is a big undertaking but probably an  
 2 important one that we have to consider, as well as how it  
 3 would fit in with some of the activities that we already  
 4 have ongoing with the work plan, how to balance that out,  
 5 clearly from our perspective, having an understanding of  
 6 all of the activities that our staff is looking at, all  
 7 at the same time, would be beneficial if possible, but it  
 8 is also, like I said, a big undertaking.

9 So, I would encourage Mr. Hamilton, since he  
 10 suggested it, if he would like to consider whether or not  
 11 he would take the lead in working with the staff to see  
 12 how that could be done and what resources it would take.  
 13 Obviously, we're not in a situation here where we could  
 14 take any kind of action, as this is a discussion and not  
 15 a deliberation. I just offer that up for future  
 16 consideration.

17 Other Board Member comment?  
 18 (No response.)  
 19 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, sir.  
 20 Any other points of discussion? I think I had  
 21 a couple of comments based on the last two presentations.  
 22 One theme that I've heard in various places that wasn't  
 23 considered a crosscutting issues is fire protection. It  
 24 seems that a lot of the hazards that are facing the  
 25 nuclear facilities happen to start with fire. And fire

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1 suppression seems to be a very important element in  
2 preventing release and harm to the public, as well as the  
3 collocated worker, but we don't consider it as far as  
4 crosscutting issues. It's taken site by site.

5 So, I guess one of the comments that I would  
6 make based on the presentations I have is whether or not  
7 we need to be looking at some of these issues and doing  
8 some comparison across the Board or lessons learned. I  
9 think Mr. Sullivan mentioned something similar with other  
10 aspects, as well, but that was one of the notes that I  
11 would make based on some of the presentations that we've  
12 gotten.

13 And then the other issue was with regard to  
14 staffing resources and onboarding specific individuals  
15 and how long that takes because I think, then, that goes  
16 to Mr. Sullivan's point about resource allocation. When  
17 budgets come out, I think that we have to be cognizant of  
18 the fact that bringing people onboard takes time for  
19 those people to get up to speed to be contributing  
20 members, but it also takes time from our staff to help  
21 those people become contributing members of the team.

22 So, any significant onboarding of personnel  
23 actually takes staff time away from doing their other  
24 work. And, so, I think that just has to be something  
25 that we recognize when we are looking at how we're

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1 allocating staff resources across these different  
2 functions and how we're bringing people onboard in which  
3 areas.

4 MS. ROBERSON: Since we have time, I'll keep  
5 talking. Bruce and I got a balanced table down here. I  
6 guess the -- this is the second year that we've done  
7 this, and I think it is a good exercise. I think there's  
8 been dramatic improvement.

9 I guess I'd say to my other Board Members, I  
10 mean, each one of us have to have our own thermometer as  
11 to what we're looking for. For me, when I look at the  
12 work plan, I'm trying to conclude whether what the staff  
13 has laid out is going to give me enough information to be  
14 comfortable that there is an assurance of adequate  
15 protection across the complex. So, I'm kind of looking  
16 at not just the big activities; what they're looking at  
17 when it comes to safety management programs and other  
18 things.

19 But I'm not sure that -- I mean, that's me.  
20 I'm not sure that that's consistent across the Board  
21 Members. So, I guess I'm interested in what do the other  
22 Board Members get out of the work plan. We've got half  
23 an hour. We're talking here. Okay.

24 MR. SULLIVAN: So, to respond to your question,  
25 well, I do look at the work plan as it's generated for

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1 this -- the specific types of things that were either  
2 brought here directly or were on questioning, such as  
3 when we hear that there will be a focus on emergency  
4 preparedness at various sites, you know, the question is,  
5 well, where. And does that line up with my understanding  
6 of where we haven't looked yet, plus where we may have  
7 some other data that suggests there might be weaknesses,  
8 such as data from our own site representatives who have  
9 reported that they've watched some drills or exercises at  
10 the site, plus the other factors that have been  
11 discussed, including location to the public, just the  
12 nature of Hanford, for example, is a very big place where  
13 many of the facilities are located very far away from the  
14 public. And then we have other places like Lawrence  
15 Livermore where the public is literally next door to the  
16 site.

17 So, to my knowledge, we've not identified  
18 significant issues at Livermore, but if we had identified  
19 significant issues at emergency preparedness at  
20 Livermore, for example, that would elevate my concern,  
21 simply because the public is so very close to the  
22 facilities there.

23 So, I do look at these issues as they are  
24 presented in the work plan and try to make sure that they  
25 either align with the same way that I would factor those

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1 various elements together, and if they don't then suggest  
2 changes. I think we've done that in that process, and  
3 much of what we've had today and the discussion is -- is  
4 in the nature of informing the public about work that I  
5 think has already happened largely behind the scenes.

6 MS. ROBERSON: Thank you.

7 MS. CONNERY: Does anyone else want to respond  
8 to that? How do you -- how does the work plan work for  
9 you, Dan? Sorry, Mr. Santos.

10 MR. SANTOS: No, I want to echo the Vice  
11 Chairman's word. I look at it from a high level. Is  
12 this a collection of activities that we can look at to  
13 get confidence and provide confidence to the public that  
14 given our limited resources we are at least bringing good  
15 coverage for adequate protection.

16 But having said that, one thing I want to get a  
17 better understanding is what's the link to improvements  
18 to safety? The staff is applying their expertise, their  
19 experience to come up with work activities they feel that  
20 are important, but not -- and everywhere I can see a  
21 direct link of, well, how is this activity going to lead  
22 to what improvement of safety.

23 I'm not looking for metrics, necessary  
24 quantitative, but it would be good for me to understand,  
25 we're spending these efforts doing these sort of reviews

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1 because this is the improvement to safety we are  
2 deriving. And we're not doing that as explicitly as I  
3 would like to see. So, I look forward to work closely  
4 with the staff to brainstorm to see if there's other  
5 areas.

6 To Mr. Hamilton's point, having worked at the  
7 NRC -- sorry, a little biased to support that -- but as  
8 you know, the staff already has a risk scheme they're  
9 applying. So, I think as any change, we have to be  
10 careful as we develop a new risk scheme and how will that  
11 merge so it's not too disruptive to what the staff  
12 considers adequate today.

13 Also, it's not clear to me in the work plan --  
14 and maybe it's a question I should have asked Mr. Stokes  
15 -- how open are we to other inputs to areas of risk.  
16 Right now, I think our activities are derived by the  
17 staff only. It's not clear to me whether we're asking  
18 the public, DOE, other stakeholders, hey, we feel the  
19 Board should be also be looking at this area. Again, I'm  
20 just looking for ways to leverage and expand our  
21 capability.

22 So, to me, getting input from other  
23 stakeholders for future work plans could be beneficial.  
24 Obviously, they can -- will have to be in context and  
25 screened through whatever risk scheme we have. So, those

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1 are some of the comments I look forward to discuss  
2 individually and I will just -- any observations on that?

3 MS. CONNERY: So, Mr. Santos, I just -- on your  
4 last point --

5 MR. SANTOS: Yes.

6 MS. CONNERY: -- I understand the desire to  
7 bring in other viewpoints. The only caution I would make  
8 is that the work plan shouldn't be in place of the work.  
9 It's a tool to facilitate the work; it's guidelines to  
10 give us an idea of where the staff is going but shouldn't  
11 necessarily be a day-to-day indicator of what they're  
12 going to be doing. And, so, I would not want it to end  
13 up being a handcuff -- handcuffs on the staff to not be  
14 able to respond or be as flexible as they need to be  
15 based on the circumstances they have.

16 I also don't want them to spend an inordinate  
17 amount of time creating the work plan, which is, at this  
18 point, fairly elaborate as it is. So, if you factored in  
19 other inputs, I think it would -- it might get a little  
20 bit more unwieldy and complicated. That's just my  
21 viewpoint.

22 MR. SANTOS: No disagreement. And I wasn't  
23 necessarily referring to the work plan. I was just  
24 referring to input to our work.

25 MS. CONNERY: Okay.

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1 MR. SANTOS: In whatever form it comes.

2 MR. SULLIVAN: So, to clarify what I said a few  
3 minutes ago about the work plan and what I get out of it,  
4 I was only addressing what I get out of it as opposed to  
5 trying to address how that sausage was made before I  
6 commented on it. And, so, we have a bottom-up process.  
7 We have the staff puts together something and then brings  
8 it to us for our comment, as opposed to a top-down  
9 process, where we might gather in the beginning and  
10 provide some specific direction to the staff for the  
11 development of their work plan.

12 And I'm not sure which would be most efficient  
13 or effective. I do understand that there's a lot in --  
14 that this is a lot of work, as the Chairman said, that  
15 goes into the creation of this plan. And like anything  
16 else, we want to make sure that the work is commensurate  
17 with the value that we get out of it.

18 And I would hate to see us get to be like the  
19 United States budget where it takes years to develop a  
20 one-year budget and one year to spend all the money. And  
21 just so we don't -- we don't want to have something that  
22 becomes onerous to the staff and I think there's -- it  
23 wouldn't surprise me to find out that we currently  
24 actually have some staff members who think the current  
25 process is, in fact, onerous.

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1 So, I was only addressing what we got out of it  
2 because I thought that was the question. And I'll just  
3 say it doesn't mean we can't -- could not or should not  
4 look at trying to improve the process. As you said, this  
5 is only the second year that we've done this. It's  
6 better this year than it was last. That doesn't mean  
7 we've reached nirvana, by any stretch, on where we are.

8 Being a small agency, we generally have the  
9 problem where virtually everybody is busy. So, when you  
10 ask the question, well, how do we take some manpower to  
11 go look at something in order to make ourselves better or  
12 more efficient, well, we find out that there's no  
13 manpower available because we're all busy trying to do  
14 the mission. So, I don't have easy answers to some of  
15 these things that I know we're talking about here.  
16 Nevertheless, if there's any way I could be part of any  
17 effort to try to make it better, I'd be happy to do that.  
18 Thank you.

19 MS. CONNERY: We're all for continuous  
20 improvement. Other comment?

21 I think maybe that Mr. Hamilton's suggestion of  
22 a dashboard may help in that regard. I'm not quite sure  
23 how I see those two things fitting together, but  
24 somewhere in the back of my head, based on the comments  
25 that both Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Santos put forward, I'm

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1 thinking that there might be synergies, to use an  
2 overused word, with the dashboard that you're thinking  
3 of.  
4 Please note that Mr. Hamilton is nodding.  
5 Any other comments from the Board? Any other  
6 issues that you guys want to discuss with each other,  
7 with me, with the public? Any hamming for the camera you  
8 want to be doing?  
9 (No response.)  
10 MS. CONNERY: Okay, seeing none, I want to move  
11 to the next agenda item, which is to actually ask for  
12 public comment. And I'm going to make sure I turn to my  
13 trusty General Counsel to have -- to make sure I have  
14 this right. We haven't, at this point, received any  
15 public comment from email or from the internet; is that  
16 correct?  
17 MR. BIGGINS: That's correct.  
18 MS. CONNERY: That's correct, okay. So, then,  
19 I will ask the public who is in the room if they would  
20 like to make comment, and then is there a procedure by  
21 which they need to make the comment?  
22 MR. BIGGINS: They should come to the  
23 microphone to make the comment on the record.  
24 MS. CONNERY: And identify themselves and their  
25 affiliation, I would assume?

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1 MR. BIGGINS: Yes.  
2 MS. CONNERY: Okay, so, is there any such  
3 desire on the part of the public? Or staff? You're  
4 public. Doo, doo, doo, doo.  
5 Now, seeing none, okay, we've failed to receive  
6 any public comment. So, our last order of business is to  
7 get closing remarks or parting shots, whatever you want  
8 to call it from our -- my fellow Board Members before we  
9 can declare this a success. So, I will turn to --  
10 there's an order here. I'll turn to my colleagues,  
11 starting with Ms. Roberson, for closing remarks.  
12 MS. ROBERSON: Thanks. That's it. Thank you.  
13 Thank you, Madam Chair.  
14 MS. CONNERY: Pithy. Very pithy.  
15 Mr. Sullivan.  
16 MR. SULLIVAN: So, I do want to thank all the  
17 members of the staff who've put together these  
18 presentations, all the work that went into creating the  
19 plan that underlies the presentations, as well as the  
20 staff members who did what needed to be done in order to  
21 have this public meeting. Thank you very much.  
22 I do have, as I discussed here earlier, two  
23 primary thoughts. One is that in looking at the advice  
24 that we provide the Secretary I personally would like to  
25 be as specific as possible with issues that are in the

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1 complex at particular places because I generally feel  
2 that going forward that might lead most directly to  
3 measurable improvement that we could hopefully track on  
4 the short order.  
5 And, secondly, I do think that there are some  
6 areas that -- where the staff themselves have expressed  
7 concern that we need to seriously think about what advice  
8 we might want to provide the Secretary on those areas.  
9 And I look forward to appropriate discussions with other  
10 Board Members on those issues.  
11 So, with that said, thank you very much.  
12 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.  
13 Mr. Santos.  
14 MR. SANTOS: I want to echo the words of Mr.  
15 Sullivan. Thank you to staff, support staff, and  
16 including our site reps that put a lot of effort, not  
17 only in the plan but the actual work itself. That's at  
18 the bottom -- at the end of the day, that's what matters.  
19 My comment is that I do like the discipline of  
20 having a work plan and the traceability it provides and  
21 as a communication tool; however, I look forward to also  
22 giving insight of this agency for it to be flexible to  
23 our needs and the needs of the complex.  
24 And Sean, Mr. Sullivan, talked about the  
25 bottoms-up approach, and I think there's also room to try

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1 a little bit of the top-down where the Board itself wants  
2 to drive some of the work items. And understanding how  
3 that's going to play out and how flexible we can adapt to  
4 that, I think that's very important whether it's the  
5 suggestion brought up by Mr. Hamilton that's going to be  
6 like a top-down approach and how will that fit to the  
7 work or some initiatives that myself I might have  
8 regarding potential Federal oversight.  
9 And that synergy between an existing process  
10 and how do we coordinate all that is something I -- is  
11 yet to be tested out. And I look forward to work closely  
12 with other Board Members and staff to be seamless. So,  
13 again, thank you for the opportunity. No further  
14 comments.  
15 MS. CONNERY: Thank you, Mr. Santos.  
16 Mr. Hamilton?  
17 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you, Madam Chairman.  
18 Again, I'd like to echo the comments of my fellow Board  
19 Members in thanking you for putting together a great  
20 product and in thanking you in advance now for the much  
21 heavier lift of actually carrying out the plan. So,  
22 we'll be here to help you in doing that and try not to  
23 confuse things too much in the process. Thank you very  
24 much.  
25 MS. CONNERY: So, I'm last. I'd like to say

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1 thank you, as well, to everyone. Thanks for going easy  
 2 on me for my first public meeting. I'd also like to note  
 3 Mr. Tontodonato, because he's been here but silent, as  
 4 part of our senior staff. He's been a talented slide  
 5 flipper. With 59 slides, it's not always that easy, so  
 6 thank you.  
 7 So, just a couple of substantive comments, and  
 8 I agree with Mr. Sullivan that we need to be specific to  
 9 convey our concerns and our recommendations or advice to  
 10 the Secretary of Energy. I do feel, however, that there  
 11 are a number of ways that we can do that. And sometimes  
 12 it is helpful and beneficial to resolve issues at a lower  
 13 level, if at all possible, than necessarily always going  
 14 up to the higher level of a recommendation.  
 15 So, I think we have a lot of tools in our  
 16 toolkit that we could use in order to focus on the  
 17 outcome rather than the process. And I think that's  
 18 where we all here on the Board, coming from our different  
 19 backgrounds, agree that's what it is that we need to do.  
 20 This is the first time in a long time we've had a full  
 21 complement of five Board Members. We all come from  
 22 different backgrounds, and we all have something unique  
 23 to contribute.  
 24 I also would like to say that I'm looking  
 25 forward to an improved relationship with the Department

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1 of Energy. We've seen some of those dividends already in  
 2 the past -- at least in my short tenure, and I hope to  
 3 see that continue because I would like to be able to, as  
 4 a Board, influence the decisions of the Department of  
 5 Energy and not just become pen pals with them so that  
 6 safety is something that we can work on together going  
 7 forward.  
 8 So, once again, I'd like to thank everyone for  
 9 their participation in the meeting, the support staff  
 10 that has made this happen, the legal staff for keeping us  
 11 legal, and we will see you shortly. This concludes the  
 12 Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's business  
 13 meeting, and this meeting is adjourned.  
 14 (Whereupon, the public meeting was adjourned at  
 15 3:43 p.m.)  
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  
 2  
 3 I, LINDA METCALF, the officer before whom the  
 4 foregoing testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the  
 5 proceeding was digitally recorded by me and thereafter  
 6 reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; that  
 7 said testimony is a true record of the event; that I am  
 8 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of  
 9 the parties to the action in which this proceeding was  
 10 taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee  
 11 of any of the parties hereto, nor financially or  
 12 otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.  
 13  
 14  
 15 LINDA METCALF  
 16  
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