

Bruce Hamilton, Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



The Honorable James Richard Perry
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Perry:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board requires access to all phases of the nuclear explosive safety (NES) study process. Since March 2018, NNSA has denied our staff access to NES study deliberations, as well as the outbrief of one study group's final report. To compensate for the lost access, members of our staff have met with the NNSA lead for each NES study after the fact to walk through the deliberations process, including how the study group's concerns were dispositioned, and to discuss any additional demonstrations, walkdowns, or briefings.

These back-briefings have been beneficial but are insufficient substitutes for observation of NES study group deliberations and outbriefs. NES study groups deliberate as an expert panel and do not formally document the rationale for dispositioning each of their observations and concerns. Such information cannot be fully reconstructed during back-briefings, and, as a result, our staff is unable to evaluate fully: (1) the implementation of DOE directives during the deliberations and outbrief processes; and (2) the study groups' rationale for dispositioning their concerns as findings or observations, or not including them in the final report. Without access to all phases of the NES study process, we are unable to assess DOE's implementation of its directives governing safe nuclear explosive operations. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2286b(d) and §2286c(b), if the Secretary of Energy has reached a determination to deny such access, we request a report no later than 30 days documenting the Secretary's decision.

Yours truly,

Bruce Hamilton
Chairman

c: Mr. John Evans
Mr. Joe Olencz

AFFIRMATION OF BOARD VOTING RECORD

SUBJECT: Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluaiton Access

Doc Control#: 2019-100-0031

The Board acted on the above document on 06/07/2019. The document was Approved.

The votes were recorded as:

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIPATING	COMMENT	DATE
Bruce Hamilton	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/05/2019
Jessie H. Roberson	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/07/2019
Joyce L. Connery	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/05/2019

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Board Members.

Maria Burns

Executive Secretary to the Board

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Board Member Vote Sheets

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Bruce Hamilton

SUBJECT: Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluaiton Access

Doc Control#: 2019-100-0031

DATE: 06/05/2019

VOTE: Approved

COMMENTS:

None

Bruce Hamilton

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

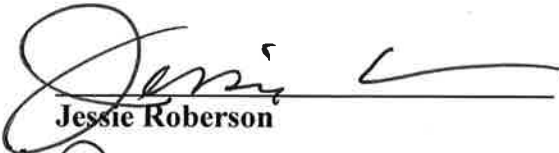
FROM: **Jessie Roberson**

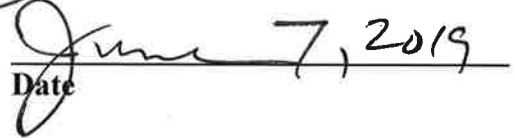
SUBJECT: **Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluation Access**

Doc Control#2019-100-031

Approved X **Disapproved** **Abstain**
Recusal – Not Participating

COMMENTS: **Below** **Attached** **None** X



Jessie Roberson


Date

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Joyce L. Connery

SUBJECT: Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluaiton Access

Doc Control#: 2019-100-0031

DATE: 06/05/2019

VOTE: Approved

COMMENTS:

None

Joyce L. Connery