

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 12, 2023

**TO:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** A.Z. Kline, L. Lin, Z.C. McCabe, and E.P. Richardson, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending May 12, 2023

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** Staff members D. Brown, D. Campbell, S. Seprish, Associate Technical Director R. Tontodonato, Deputy Technical Director K. Hererra, and General Counsel K. Lyskowski accompanied the Board on their visit to the Savannah River Site (SRS).

**Board Member Visit to SRS:** Board Members Joyce Connery, Thomas Summers, and Jessie Roberson traveled to SRS from May 8-11, 2023, to hold discussions with federal and contractor staff regarding the safety of nuclear operations and to walkdown key defense nuclear facilities. This visit was preceded by a letter from the Board to the Secretary of Energy on March 29, 2023, which outlined specific safety concerns related to adequate protection of the public and workforce and the effectiveness of federal oversight.

The Board members walked-down the following areas: K-Area Complex, Surplus Plutonium Disposition Project construction area, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), Tritium Facilities, H-Tank Farms, and the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) construction area. Facility personnel and federal staff provided updates on programmatic activities, project status, nuclear safety issues, and planned activities on safety controls at several nuclear facilities.

On April 5, 2023, the Board transmitted a letter to the Office of Environmental Management regarding several unresolved, long-standing safety basis deficiencies at SRNL. DOE provided the Board an initial update on planned improvements related to the designation of Specific Administrative Controls (SAC) and operation of the facility fire water supply system. A formal response to the reporting requirements in the Board's letter is expected in August.

The Board conducted discussions with the DOE-SR and NNSA-SRFO management regarding their approach to oversight of their respective contractors. Discussions centered around concerns with emergency preparedness, facility representative assessments, and proactive oversight.