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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is very pleased to announce the presentation of the 2010 Victor Stello, Jr. Award for Safety Leadership to Dr. Jerry McKamy, an employee of the Department of Energy (DOE). The Victor Stello, Jr. Award for Safety Leadership was established by the Board to be given as appropriate, but no more than annually, to an employee of the Department of Energy (DOE) who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in promoting safety management in the DOE defense nuclear complex. The award honors Victor Stello, Jr., Principal Deputy Secretary for Safety and Quality, Office of Defense Programs, DOE, in recognition of his outstanding service, exemplary performance and admirable leadership in promoting public health and safety in the Atomic Energy Defense Activities of the United States.

The Board is an independent agency within the Executive Branch that identifies the nature and consequences of potential threats to public health and safety at DOE's defense nuclear facilities, elevates such issues to the highest levels of authority, and informs the public.

In 1993, the Board sensed that the source of experimental competence in the prevention of inadvertent criticality was in danger of being lost entirely as a result of DOE's impending closure of the last critical mass facility in the country. That closure would have ended the hands-on education of new generations of scientists and engineers in the properties and behavior of critical systems. The Board viewed the end of experimental criticality studies as a threat to criticality safety in future DOE activities, and issued Recommendation 93-2, *The Need for Critical Experiment Capability*, which advised against such action. Despite substantial progress in coordination and implementation of the criticality experiments program, in 1997 the Board issued Recommendation 97-2, *Continuation of Criticality Safety at Defense Nuclear Facilities in the Department of Energy*, which called for DOE to take further action to ensure that criticality safety was embedded in DOE's future operations.

Dr. McKamy has been instrumental in addressing the issues raised by the Board in Recommendations 93-2 and 97-2, and both furthered the safety objectives of the Board and enhanced criticality safety within the Department of Energy. As manager of the Rocky Flats Safeguards Measurements group, Dr. McKamy developed and implemented the Rocky Flats

nondestructive assay program to measure plutonium holdup in ventilation ducting. Dr. McKamy was one of the principal authors of the DOE Implementation Plan drafted in response to Board Recommendation 97-2.

For the past several years, Dr. McKamy has served as the DOE Nuclear Criticality Safety Program Manager (NCSP). Under his leadership, the criticality safety infrastructure within DOE has improved dramatically. His noteworthy accomplishments included ensuring budget requests were sufficient to fund criticality safety training courses, developing several DOE Technical Standards related to criticality safety, leading efforts to establish a new Critical Experiments Facility (CEF) in the Device Assembly Facility at the Nevada Test Site, directing and participating in criticality safety program reviews at several DOE sites, and contributing to revisions of DOE-STD-3007 and to DOE Order 420.1B which put into place recognized standards without further modification and delay.

Most recently, Dr. McKamy's superior leadership and management skills were recognized by the DOE senior management when he was detailed to fill the vacant position of Deputy Manager, Y-12 Site Office, Y-12 National Security Complex.

It has been the experience of the Board that the essential element to solving highly technical management and leadership issues within the DOE organization is the assignment of a technically competent and highly motivated individual. In a discipline that the Board has repeatedly highlighted as essential to safe nuclear operations, Dr. Jerry McKamy has distinguished himself among a skilled DOE cadre as the best example of these qualities. He has exemplified those qualities for which the Victor Stello, Jr. Award for Safety Leadership was intended and is therefore well deserving of this special recognition.