

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):
2025-0373-S

FOIA Number:
2025-0373-S

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential
Library Staff.**

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Chief of Staff, White House Office of
Series: Card, Andrew, Files
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 02718
Folder ID Number: 02718-007

Folder Title:
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	15	21	6	

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

600 E Street, NW, Suite 675
Washington, DC 20004

Feb 23, 1990

Dear Andy —

In furtherance of keeping
you "currently & fully" informed,
enclosed copy of our first set of
recommendations to Sec. of Energy.

We are pleased with our
new temporary generators compared with
where we came from

Thanks!!

John V. Conway

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Edson G. Case
John W. Crawford, Jr.
Herbert John Cecil Kouts

February 22, 1990

Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

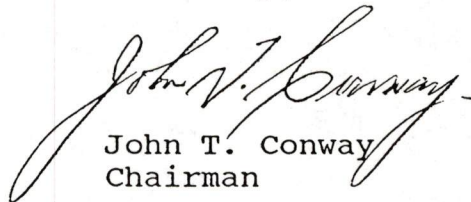
Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 22, 1990, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board met and in accordance with Section 312(5) of Public Law 100-456 approved a number of recommendations which I am sending you enclosed for your consideration.

Section 315(A) of Public Law 100-456 requires the Board, after receipt by you, to promptly make these recommendations available to the public in the Department of Energy's regional public reading rooms. Please arrange to have these recommendations placed on file in your regional public reading rooms as soon as possible.

The Board will publish these recommendations in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure

HAND DELIVERED

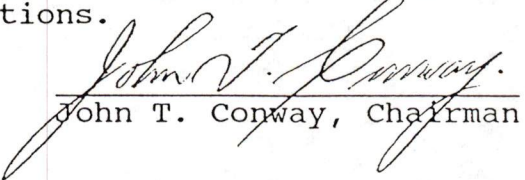
RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
pursuant to Section 312(5) of the
Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Dated: February 22, 1990

The Board has proceeded to give high-priority attention to the contemplated restart of the K, L, and P reactors at the Department's Savannah River site. This is in line with the intention of the Board to perform its duties on a schedule compatible with the Department's defense missions, to the extent such course is consistent with the Board's statutory responsibilities.

The Board believes that the DOE standards for training of reactor plant operators and supervisors at Savannah River have not been adequately determined and specified. Having given due regard to the technical and economic feasibility of implementation in accordance with the statute, the Board recommends:

- a. That DOE determine and specify the qualifications that reactor plant operators and supervisors will be required to demonstrate before restart of the K, L, and P reactors;
- b. That DOE identify any differences between its approved qualifications and those prescribed by NRC for analogous positions in the civilian nuclear power field; that where differences, if any, exist, DOE identify any supplemental measures that have been adopted in view thereof;
- c. That DOE make a comprehensive review of the current level of qualifications of each reactor operator and supervisor employing both written and oral examinations, so as to establish that the scope and content of the training program will achieve the knowledge prerequisite for restart;
- d. That the reactor plant operator and supervisor training programs be modified as necessary to take account of the required qualifications and the current state of knowledge and experience of the operators and supervisors as indicated in c. above;
- e. That DOE accelerate implementation of a configuration management program to help assure that as-built drawings of safety-related systems are available for training of operators and supervisors in procedures and for discipline of operations (e.g. valve line-ups); and
- f. That the operators and supervisors be qualified in use of the revised procedures that will be in place for normal operations and for emergency situations.


John T. Conway, Chairman

f:6

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Edson G. Case
John W. Crawford, Jr.
Herbert John Cecil Kouts

AC HAS SEEN ✓

December 8, 1989

Ms. Constance Newman, Director
Office of Personnel Management
Room 5-A09
1900 E Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Ms. Newman:

I want to thank you for your personal time and assistance in helping the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board address its hiring concerns. Our meeting on December 1, and subsequent meetings with OPM staff have been very helpful.

However, I have been informed that your OPM staff wants additional justification before a decision can be made on my November 14 written request for single agency Schedule A hiring authority. My November 14 letter to you enclosed a copy of PL 100-456 which sets forth our Board's duties and responsibilities. Specifically, OPM staff questions why this appointing authority is needed to support the Board's recruitment and hiring program.

As PL 100-456 sets forth, the activities of the Board will impact sensitive national security issues involving the nuclear weapons production capabilities of the United States at facilities such as Savannah River, Hanford, Rocky Flats, and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. The problems at these facilities require the immediate attention of the Board. However, before these reviews can begin, the Board is faced with the formidable task of locating and hiring essential technical and support personnel. For example, the Board has already determined a need to identify qualified technical personnel such as the following:

- o Nuclear Reactor Engineers and Physicists
- o Reactor Thermal Hydraulics Engineers
- o Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking Metallurgists
- o Radiological Effects Engineers
- o Nuclear Heat Transfer Engineers
- o Seismic Engineers

- o Probabilistic Risk Assessment Engineers

- o Geochemical Scientists and Engineers

The Board needs to identify and hire individuals who have expertise in one or more of the fields listed above in a timely manner. The highly technical nature of these fields coupled with a short supply of talent forces the Board to compete with other government agencies and private industry for individuals possessing the prerequisite experience and skill levels. Once a qualified individual is identified, the Board must be able to immediately extend an employment offer. Schedule A authority would provide the Board with the mechanism to hire selected individuals quickly.

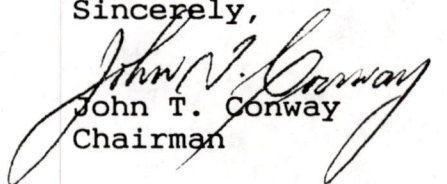
I specifically requested that the Schedule A authority apply to all Board staff due to the fact that Public Law 100-456 limits the Board to no more than 100 full-time employees. Consequently, support personnel will be extremely limited in number, and must have proven experience in several fields to provide the Board with the necessary support services. I need the flexibility to quickly select qualified individuals to these support positions. Since our enabling legislation requires the Board to begin its technical reviews on these nuclear facilities immediately, it is not practicable for me to conduct lengthy job searches and examine hundreds of job applications while the Board's health and safety responsibilities languish due to the lack of support staff.

Under these circumstances, I believe and think you will agree that the posting of such positions for merit staffing will be counterproductive to our efforts to hire staff with very specific and often unique capabilities. Considering the specialized qualifications needed for these positions and the small field of qualified candidates, I seriously doubt that merit competition will enhance our ability to find other qualified individuals. The risk of losing a qualified candidate to another organization is very high given the competition for these individuals in the marketplace.

The challenge of locating and obtaining the services of qualified persons cannot be overstated. The key to successfully carrying out our safety mandates rests on building a staff capability that possess sufficient expertise to independently evaluate safety related issues. Our public health and safety recommendations on the Nation's defense production facilities cannot be compromised due to staff deficiencies.

A copy of PL 100-456 was forwarded with my November 14 letter. For your assistance, I am enclosing an additional copy of this enabling legislation.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure: PL 100-456

cc: Mr. Andrew Card, White House (w/o enclosure)

Ms. Patricia F. Rissler, (w/o enclosure)
Committee on Post Office
and Civil Service
House of Representatives