

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION BY A BOARD MEMBER

Requester: Daniel J. Santos September 13, 2018

Brief description of Requested Action:

Send the attached letters to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations and the United States House Committee on Appropriations.

Attachments (init) 2 (included clean version of any proposed document or modified document)

Summarize any time sensitive considerations:

Requestor signature signature on file September 13, 2018

Executive secretary signature on file September 13, 2018

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIPATING	COMMENT	DATE
Bruce Hamilton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jessie H. Roberson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Daniel J. Santos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Joyce L. Connery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Final Disposition Summary						

Executive Secretary signature _____ [Click here to enter a date.](#)

September XX, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Ranking Member Leahy,

I am providing the attached Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board letter to the Secretary of Energy for your awareness. The letter addresses the Board's concerns with the recently issued DOE Order 140.1, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*. The Board held a public hearing to discuss the Order with DOE leadership on August 28, 2018. A video recording of that hearing may be found on the Board's public website at www.dnfsb.gov.

It is the Board's unanimous position that the Secretary's Order wrongly attempts to diminish the authority granted by Congress for the Board to provide independent analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy in providing adequate protection of public health and safety at defense nuclear facilities. The public hearing demonstrated differences between the Board and DOE's interpretation of our enabling legislation and highlighted the Order's adverse impacts on the Board's ability to fulfill its mission.

We welcome the opportunity to brief you at your convenience.

Yours truly,

Bruce Hamilton
Acting Chairman

Enclosure

c: Secretary of Energy Rick Perry

Enclosure

Bruce Hamilton, Acting Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Daniel J. Santos
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



September 17, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Perry:

Testimony by Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette and DOE senior staff at the Board's August 28, 2018 public hearing confirmed our apprehension that DOE Order 140.1 wrongly attempts to diminish the Board's ability to perform its statutory mandate under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended. Our primary concerns with the Order are contained in the enclosure. The testimony indicated that the Department would not fulfill its obligations under the Atomic Energy Act based on its unilateral interpretation of the statute.

The Board plans to hold two additional hearings to solicit feedback and receive input from the public and stakeholders.

In the event you are willing to suspend the Order pending revisions, we will collaborate with you on what revisions would be appropriate.

Yours truly,


Bruce Hamilton
Acting Chairman

Enclosure

c: The Honorable James Inhofe
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Mac Thornberry
The Honorable Adam Smith
The Honorable Richard Shelby

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Nita Lowey
Mr. Joe Olencz

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure – Board Concerns with DOE Order 140.1

The Board takes exception to the following items contained in DOE Order 140.1:

- 1. Exemptions** – DOE Order 140.1 implements DOE’s roles and responsibilities identified in the Board’s enabling legislation. Notably, these responsibilities include requirements to cooperate with the Board and provide the Board with ready access to facilities, personnel, and information. Exemptions included in the Order identify areas where federal and contractor personnel are not required to cooperate with the Board. The two exemptions contained in the Order which are listed below improperly state that DOE shall determine which facilities adversely affect public health and safety. As it pertains to the Board’s oversight role, the Atomic Energy Act gives the Board the authority to make that determination, not DOE.

“This Order does not apply to DOE Nuclear Hazard Category 3 or Below Hazard Category 3 facilities, as defined in DOE-STD-1027. (If requested, the DNFSB shall be provided access to the information that led to the DOE determination that a facility is less than Hazard Category 2 to allow the DNFSB oversight into that determination.)”

“This Order does not apply to nuclear facilities or activities at DOE defense nuclear facilities, as defined in this Order, that do not adversely affect or have the potential to adversely affect public health and safety.”

- 2. Public Health and Safety** – DOE Order 140.1 defines “public health and safety” as the “health and safety of individuals located beyond the site boundaries of DOE sites with DOE Defense Nuclear Facilities.” The Atomic Energy Act does not refer to the site boundary as the demarcation for defining public health and safety. By this definition, the Order claims to exempt onsite individuals and workers from the Board’s oversight. This is inconsistent with the Atomic Energy Act and with long-standing historical precedence.
- 3. Determination of Access** – The Atomic Energy Act states, “The Secretary of Energy shall fully cooperate with the Board and provide the Board with ready access to such facilities, personnel, and information *as the Board considers necessary* to carry out its responsibilities” (emphasis added). The Order excludes the language “as the Board considers necessary” in requirements for Board access, thus indicating that DOE has the power to determine what access the DNFSB needs to carry out its responsibilities. The Board has the statutory authority to make determinations on the information it needs to carry out its responsibilities, not DOE.
- 4. Deliberative Information** – DOE Order 140.1 allows DOE to deny requests related to deliberative documents, pre-decisional documents or deliberative meetings. There are no limitations on the Board’s access to this type information contained in the Atomic Energy Act, except those provided for in 42 U.S.C. § 2286c(b). This restriction has potential impacts to the Board’s safety mission, because the Board’s expert advice is often dependent upon information, meetings, and discussions with individuals that may be construed as deliberative or pre-decisional. Congress has asked the Board to express its view early in the process of design and construction, for instance, so that the Board’s opinion can be considered prior to DOE decision being made.

September XX, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
United States House Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3011

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
United States House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey,

I am providing the attached Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board letter to the Secretary of Energy for your awareness. The letter addresses the Board's concerns with the recently issued DOE Order 140.1, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*. The Board held a public hearing to discuss the Order with DOE leadership on August 28, 2018. A video recording of that hearing may be found on the Board's public website at www.dnfsb.gov.

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Yours truly,

Bruce Hamilton
Acting Chairman

Enclosure

c: Secretary of Energy Rick Perry

Enclosure

Bruce Hamilton, Acting Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Daniel J. Santos
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



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Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
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Acting Chairman

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The Honorable Jack Reed
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The Honorable Richard Shelby

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
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The Honorable Nita Lowey
Mr. Joe Olencz

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AFFIRMATION OF BOARD VOTING RECORD

SUBJECT: RFBA by Board Member Santos to Send the Attached Letters to the Senate and House Appropriations Committee

Doc Control#2018-100-070


The Board, with Board Member(s) Bruce Hamilton, Jessie H. Roberson, Daniel J. Santos, Joyce L. Connery *approving*, Board Member(s) none *disapproving*, Board Member(s) none *abstaining*, and Board Member(s) none *not participating*, has voted to approve the above document on September 14, 2018.

The votes were recorded as:

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIPATING*	COMMENT	DATE
Bruce Hamilton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	09/13/18
Jessie H. Roberson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	09/13/18
Daniel J. Santos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	09/13/18
Joyce L. Connery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	09/14/18

*Reason for Not Participating:

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


Executive Secretary to the Board

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Board Member Vote Sheets

cc: Board Members
OGC
OGM Records Officer
OTD

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Bruce Hamilton

SUBJECT: RFBA by Board Member Santos to Send the Attached Letters to the Senate
and House Appropriations Committees

Doc Control#2018-100-070

Approved X **Disapproved** **Abstain**

Recusal – Not Participating

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


Bruce Hamilton

13 SEPT 2018
Date

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

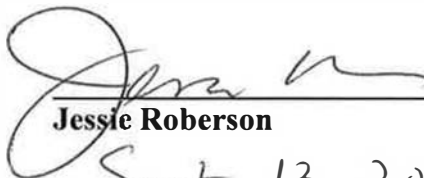
FROM: Jessie Roberson

SUBJECT: RFBA by Board Member Santos to Send the Attached Letters to the Senate
and House Appropriations Committees

Doc Control#2018-100-070

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

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



Jessie Roberson
Sept 13, 2018

Date

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

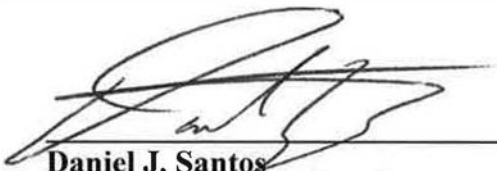
FROM: Daniel J. Santos

SUBJECT: RFBA by Board Member Santos to Send the Attached Letters to the Senate
and House Appropriations Committees

Doc Control#2018-100-070

Approved X Disapproved _____ Abstain _____
Recusal – Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below _____ Attached _____ None X



Daniel J. Santos

9/13/18
Date

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Joyce Connery

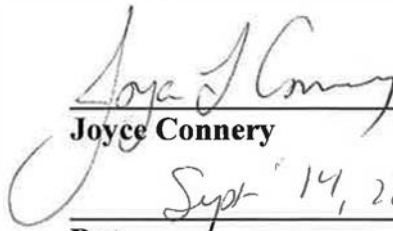
SUBJECT: RFBA by Board Member Santos to Send the Attached Letters to the Senate
and House Appropriations Committees

Doc Control#2018-100-070

Approved Disapproved Abstain

Recusal – Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below Attached None



Joyce Connery
Sept 14, 2018

Date