

## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

AUG 24 1995

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
Suite 700  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a letter to you from Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs, dated November 8, 1994, we described the process the Department would employ for resumption of nuclear operations at Y-12. The letter describes a serial, four-step process whereby the contractor line-management, contractor independent oversight, DOE line-management, and Department of Energy (DOE) independent oversight would review and assess readiness to resume operations. We are now in the readiness assessment process and it is appropriate that we update you on modifications to the described approach.

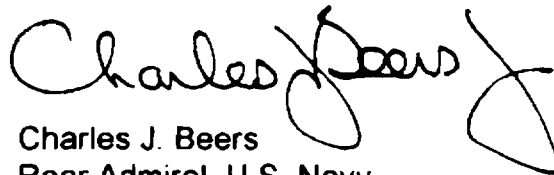
The biggest change to the described process will be with the assessment of Depleted Uranium Operations (DUO). Lockheed Martin Energy Systems (LMES) has been granted restart authority, with the concurrence of the DOE Y-12 Site Office Manager, for DUO. LMES has completed their line-management assessment for DUO. Their independent readiness assessment will begin on August 28, 1995. The DOE Y-12 Site Office Restart Team (YSORT) is assessing the LMES readiness efforts in parallel with the LMES assessments. The Manager, Y-12 Site Office will concur with the LMES restart authority prior to resumption of DUO. No independent DOE assessment will be required.

The rationale for the above change is the DUO activities fall within a low hazard category. There are no fissile materials, criticality safety approvals, or operational safety requirements. DUO has been scheduled for resumption after restart of Receipt, Shipment, and Storage (RSS) operations. LMES will use RSS to demonstrate that they have a credible readiness process.

For the other mission areas, the assessment process is as previously described with the exception that the DOE line-management (YSORT) assessment will be conducted in parallel with the LMES assessments. This change shortens the assessment process without sacrificing thoroughness or the independent elements.

These changes have been discussed with members of your staff in briefings throughout the summer. This letter serves to formally document deviations from earlier declared plans.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Dale Dunsworth of my at (301) 903-5156.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles J. Beers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Charles J. Beers  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Military Application and  
Stockpile Support  
Defense Programs

cc:  
M. Whitaker, EH-9