

[DOE MEMORANDUM]

DATE: DEC 13 1996

REPLY

TO

ATTN OF: DP-16:MRFerry:(202) 226-7078

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF ACTIONS STARTED UNDER DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION 93-6 RESPONSIBILITIES

TO: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development (DASRD)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Management (DASMASM)

DNFSB Recommendation 93-6, "Maintaining Access to Nuclear Weapons Expertise," is approaching closure. All deliverables have been provided to the DNFSB. The programs listed below have reached sufficient maturity to be integrated into normal line management.

The following programs were started in response to Recommendation 93-6 and need to continue when Recommendation 93-6 is closed out:

1. Department policy to maintain continued availability to its retired scientists and engineers that worked in the defense nuclear facilities (DOE Notice 3131.1);
2. Each Weapon Safety Specification (WSS) will capture safety-related information from laboratory design individuals, weapons experts at Pantex, and any other unique skills and knowledge drawn from laboratory or Pantex personnel. This was institutionalized with Albuquerque Operations Office Archiving Plan for Pantex Operations and EP401110, Revision B;
3. A semi-annual formal presentation to the DASMASM Weapons Panel, ensuring that the nuclear weapons laboratories and Pantex have conducted personnel reviews. These reviews will determine whether the necessary level of personnel expertise is available and identify any corrective actions needed;
4. A Knowledge Preservation Program established by Y-12 Plant and Oak Ridge Operations Office to capture the anecdotal safety aspects of quality evaluations, assembly/disassembly, processes, and safety support skills and knowledge;
5. Nevada Operations Office revised NV 56XE.1, "Underground Nuclear Testing," to include: an annual qualitative assessment of the critical functional areas; key positions, Job and Tasks Analyses; development of an annual exercise/activity plan to ensure that key positions, facilities, management systems, and controls are exercised; and an annual

completion report of accomplishments; and

6. Archiving of safety-related knowledge of personnel relating to the conduct of an underground nuclear test. This requirement was institutionalized by the Nevada Test Site Underground Nuclear Testing Archiving Program.

The DASRD will exercise responsibility for the testing activities and archiving activities pertaining to testing, and DASMASM will exercise responsibility for the weapons activities and archiving activities pertaining to weapons operations. The delineation of these responsibilities is required to ensure line management involvement and appropriate funding for these programs.

The periodic video conferences which were deliverables under the 93-6 Implementation Plan were found to be valuable and will continue on a quarterly basis for FY 1997, and on a semiannual basis thereafter. The conferences will be conducted under the direction of the cognizant Department line managers. The conferences will address ongoing implementation issues, such as completing the remaining WSSs, integrating efforts at the various sites, emphasizing operational safety issues, and assuring continued management support and funding.

The implementation of this program has been successful, and the managers involved with this program must assure continued momentum and success, building upon the efforts to date. Please provide me with the name of your senior manager who will be responsible for the continuation of these efforts. If you have any questions please contact me at (301) 903-2410.

Victor Stello, Jr.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Quality Management
Defense Programs