

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Albuquerque Operations Office

DATE: JUN 11 1996
 REPLY TO: WPD:GR
 ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Commitments to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on the 93-6 Implementation Plan .

TO: Mark B. Whitaker, Departmental Representative, Office of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

In response to your letter of May 10, 1996, expressing concern about Department of Energy/Albuquerque Operations Office (DOE/AL) milestone deliverables to the DNFSB, please be assured that DOE/AL fully appreciates the importance of meeting commitments to the Board as reflected in the 93-6 Implementation Plan.

As discussed below, it is AL's position that two of the three 93-6 deliverables were met on schedule and that the delay in the third deliverable has already been acknowledged as appropriate by Defense Board staff.

It is also important to note that DOE/AL maintains a continuous dialogue with DOE/Headquarters (HQ) Defense Programs (DP) staff regarding the 93-6 deliverables. AL's proposed approach to meeting the 93-6 deliverables was coordinated with DP five weeks prior to the due date.

Specific information on each of the deliverables is provided below for your reference:

W69 Weapon Safety Specification (WSS)

The W69 WSS Issue D was transmitted to DOE/HQ on April 30, 1996, with appropriate incorporation of, and references to, archiving and surveillance program information.

Revised Engineering Procedure (EP) EP401110

All sections of the draft revised EP401110 addressing the incorporation of archiving and surveillance program information into Weapon Safety Specifications were formally transmitted to DOE/HQ on April 30, 1996.

It is AL's position that this transmittal met the intent of the 93-6 deliverable on EP401110, as the focus of this deliverable is on revision of the EP to "reflect upgraded WSS requirements."



The EP has not yet been signed by all weapon complex organizations. Changes to the EP, beyond the scope of the 93-6 deliverable, are in process (i.e. incorporation of Use Control requirements and SS-21 "lessons learned" improvements).

At the May 21, 1996, DNFSB Staff Review in Albuquerque, AL informed Board staff members that internal weapon complex agreement had not been reached on these additional changes. With that information, Board Staff Member (BSM), Jan Preston acknowledged that it was not appropriate to send the draft EP to the Board prior to securing internal DOE agreement.

The revised EP will be transmitted to DOE/HQ by July 31, 1996, for transmittal to the Board by August 31, 1996.

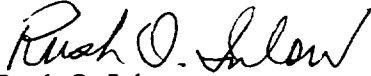
W56 Weapon Safety Specification

A version of the W56 WSS was available to provide to the Board by May 30, 1996. However, AL and HQ/DP agreed in late April that it was appropriate to delay delivery of this version to allow incorporation of the results of additional archiving efforts currently underway at Pantex.

At the May 17, 1996, 93-6 Televideo Conference, BSM, Jan Preston stated that she understood why the W56 deliverable was being delayed and agreed that the delay was appropriate.

The W56 WSS will be transmitted to DOE/HQ by July 31, 1996, for submittal to the Board by August 31, 1996.

I hope that this letter provides sufficient information to respond to any inquiries on 93-6 deliverables that are under DOE/AL control. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 505-845-6666.


Rush O. Inlow
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cc:
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