

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

January 3, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

In the Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 91-6, the Department of Energy (DOE) committed that they would implement post-training evaluation and retention testing programs following implementation of standardized core training at defense nuclear facilities. Criteria for retention testing were included with the post-training evaluation guidelines distributed to operations and field offices December 9, 1994. The guidelines provide for feedback into maintaining and upgrading the training courses to correct any deficiencies.

All Defense Programs (DP) defense nuclear facilities have implemented programs comparable to the guidelines, except for the following.

The Nevada Test Site was expected to have implemented a comparable program by the end of November 1995. Lockheed Martin Energy Systems at Y-12 expects to have a program in place by December 31, 1995. Sandia National Laboratories has developed procedures and has implemented a program for post training evaluation, and has been directed by DOE to develop procedures and implement a retention testing program by February 1996.

In view of the requirements of 10 CFR 835 subpart J, that all workers be trained commensurate with their assignment, and the civil and criminal penalties that may be invoked under 10 CFR 820 for noncompliance, DP believes that this commitment has been met, and does not believe that any further reports regarding post-training evaluation and retention testing are required.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Diane Larsen, the Radiological Control Program Advisor for DP, at 301-303-7316.

Sincerely,

Everet H. Beckner
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Defense Programs