

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

January 18, 1996

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington,, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Conway:

This letter transmits the Department of Energy's (DOE) Quarterly Status Report on the DOE Facility Representative Program. The Department continues its strong commitment to this program and to continued improvement of our safety processes. Our Facility Representatives are vital links between our line programs and DOE contractors in ensuring safe operations at our defense nuclear facilities.

The Office of Field Management continues to work with our field sites to implement an effective Facility Representative Program. This is being done in close coordination with the Facility Representative Steering Committee, the Program Offices, and our field offices' training personnel. The Department is also looking past program implementation to program maintenance, and has developed performance indicators to track field performance on a quarterly basis.

Enclosed is the Department's October through December 1995 status report for Recommendation 92-2. This report addresses the remaining action.items for 92-2 as agreed upon by Tim Dwyer and Max Clausen of our respective staffs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joseph Hassenfeldt at 202 586-1643.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Pearman, Jr.
Associate Deputy Secretary for Field Management

Enclosure

Enclosure 1

**FACILITY REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM ACTION PLAN
ACTION ITEM STATUS**

Commitment 2, Actions 3, 4 - The Facility Representative (FR) Program has been implemented, and now moves to a phase of maintaining the program's integrity. Attachment 1 to this Enclosure is a copy of the set of Performance Indicators the field will be reporting quarterly to the Program Offices and the Office of Field Management.

Commitment 4, Action 8 - Field Organizations have developed qualification cards and standards for their FRs at their respective facilities. Per discussions with DNFSB Staff, samples of these qualification standards are available for review. This review is to be scheduled in early January 1996.

Commitment 4, Actions 10, 11, 12 - Our Facility Representative Program Managers in the field have reported that they do not require any additional training resources to support the qualification of any of the current FRs. The Technical Personnel Program Coordination Committee (TPPCC) is coordinating the training resources required to satisfy the training needs in support of DNFSB Recommendation 93-3 regarding technical training. The TPPCC is coordinating the development of training resources required by each of the functional area qualification standards, including Facility Representatives, and any site specific training needed as a part of 93-3.

Commitment 5, Action 5 - The Department's Program Offices and the Office of Field Management have performed reviews of the Field Offices' implementation of the Facility Representative Program. Copies of these reviews have been forwarded to the DNFSB as they have been performed, or as enclosures with Field Management's quarterly status reports. Most offices have shown that their programs: adequately meet the implementation intent of DOE-STD-1063 "Implementing and Maintaining a Facility Representative Program at DOE Nuclear Facilities."

The one exception to this statement is the Richland Operations Office (RL). During their review, they were graded as unsatisfactory in meeting the intent of DOE-STD-1063. RL has submitted to Field Management a comprehensive report of corrective actions taken and further actions planned in response to the weaknesses cited in their report. Based on these changes in policy and program direction, their FR program now adequately meets the intent of DOE-STD-1063.

Commitment 6 - The Facility Representative Steering Committee has reviewed program implementation, and, based on site visits, program documentation, and discussions with FRs and FR Managers, has found that implementation in the field is satisfactory. All effected field organizations have program manuals or directives in place, the program is 96% staffed complex-wide (219 onboard, 223 desired), and qualifications continue to improve, with 54% of FRs core/interim qualified, and 26% of FRs are fully qualified. Anecdotal evidence continues to show cases where accidents, injuries, and equipment damage were avoided solely due to the presence of DOE Facility Representatives.