



The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 18, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM:

T. J. GLAUTHIER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TJG", written over the printed name.

SUBJECT:

NUCLEAR CRITICALITY SAFETY WORKSHOP

The purpose of this memo is to announce a two-day Nuclear Criticality Safety Workshop which will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico beginning October 23, 2000.

During the past year the Department has taken a number of steps to strengthen its criticality safety programs beginning with the Nuclear Criticality Safety Self-improvement Initiative workshop held in August 1999. My November 3, 1999 memorandum described a number of specific actions to improve ongoing criticality safety practices, most of which have been completed. One of those actions requested the Department's Office of Oversight to review criticality safety program operations at key nuclear facilities. The results of this review are summarized in the report "Nuclear Criticality Safety at Key Department of Energy Facilities."

In response to that report, on May 11, 2000, Secretary Richardson outlined further actions to be taken, one of which was to hold a workshop with a focus on best practices to increase involvement of criticality safety experts in operations.

I have asked the Department's Nuclear Criticality Safety Program Management Team (NCSPMT), which is responsible for the Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 97-2 (Continuation of Nuclear Criticality Safety), to sponsor this workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to communicate lessons learned about integration of criticality safety into operations through positive interaction between operations personnel and the criticality safety staff, to identify specific barriers to implementation of these good practices, and to develop specific improvement initiatives that will enable sites to implement these best practices. The workshop will facilitate development by attendees of individual site specific measures that can be incorporated into Site Criticality Safety Improvement Plans which are required to be completed by December 31, 2000.

I am asking each of you to send your key Federal and Contractor critical safety professionals and operations managers of nuclear facilities to this workshop. The NCSPMT will also ensure that criticality safety experts are available to provide assistance and advice. Questions should be directed to the Co-Chairman of the NCSPMT, Roger Dintaman (301-903-3642) or Hoyt Johnson (202-586-0191).

I strongly encourage your full support and the participation of your organization in this important workshop.