



Department of Energy
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OCT 31 2000

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consistent with the Department's implementation plan (IP) for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 98-2 as revised, the following provides information regarding the five (5) deliverables due October 2000.

- Commitment 4.2.1, "D&P Manual Chapter 11.8"—This is a new commitment as a result of the revision to 98-2. The Department acknowledged that one area where a high quality analysis could be achieved was through providing a consistent method for the labs to provide weapon response information and supporting documentation to Pantex. As a result, the Department tasked the design laboratories and the Pantex Operating Contractor to jointly develop a consistent approach to evaluating weapon response information and providing supporting documentation. The product is the enclosed D&P Manual Chapter 11.8, "Integration of Weapon Response into Authorization Bases at the Pantex Plant". Publication of the chapter represents completion of this commitment.
- Commitment 4.2.5, "Revision #2 to the Integrated Safety Management Authorization Manual"—This commitment is a follow-on from the original approved implementation plan actions associated with commitments 5.3.1 and 5.8.1. The result was the original publication of the referenced manual. The Department acknowledged that the original manual was adequate for initial application. However, there were areas that needed improvement such as integration of fire hazard analyses and tooling failure analyses with the overall safety analyses for nuclear explosive operations. The Pantex Operating Contractor prepared a draft Revision #2, but has not completed their internal review and comment incorporation. To allow time appropriate review, resolution of comments, and submission to AAO for approval, this deliverable is delayed by 60 days.

- Commitment 4.3.1, "DOE-approved BIO Module on Fire Protection and associated TSR and Develop a resource-loaded schedule for implementation of improved TSR controls for fire protection"—This is a new commitment as a result of the revision to 98-2. As a result of the efforts to implement ultraviolet (UV) detector activated deluge fire suppression, the Fire BIO is not ready for submission at this time. Technical issues remain with the sensitivity and zone coverage of the UV detectors that must be resolved prior to approval of the BIO. The Fire BIO, TSR revision, and implementation plan will be submitted within 30 days.
- Commitment 4.3.6, "Flammable Solvent and Combustible Material Reduction Plan"—This is a new commitment as a result of the revision to 98-2. Based upon the analytical work performed through several CHE weapon program HARs, the Department identified the need to place increased emphasis and priority to eliminate, minimize, or identify and implement suitable substitutes through a risk-cost benefit assessment for flammable solvents and combustible materials currently used in proximity to and in nuclear explosive operations. Enclosed is the memo from the AL Manager that communicates this priority and tasks the laboratories and the Pantex Plant operating contractor to continue pursuit of the Department's plan. Release of the plan represents completion of this commitment.
- Commitment 4.3.7, "Plan for Transportation Carts"—This is a new commitment as a result of the revision to 98-2. The Department is in process of developing a plan for the design, fabrication, and use of carts for partially assembled nuclear weapons affording protection against the range of potential hazards envisioned during transport at the Pantex Plant. Enclosed is the memo from the AAO Manager approving the project plan as a partial submittal. The complexity of the project and evolutionary nature of the design process dictates completion of the design which includes substantial national laboratory analysis prior to finalization of the implementation plan. As stated in the enclosed document, the final plan will be ready for submission by January 2001.

The Department proposes closure of those commitments indicated as complete. If you have any questions, please contact me at 505-845-6050, or have your staff contact Dan Glenn at 806-477-3182



R. E. Glass
Manager

Enclosure (3)

cc: See Page 3

cc w/enclosures:

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