

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 17, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consistent with the Department's Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2000-2, I am forwarding information concerning Deliverables 16 through 20, and 23 of the plan.

Commitment 16, due in November 2001, calls for the Department to monitor field response to the Secretary's interim direction to establish contractor system engineers, and brief the Board a year after issuance of the interim direction. The Secretary's direction was issued in February 2001 vice November 2000 and the Department plans to brief the Board in February 2002 vice November 2001.

Commitments 17 and 18, due in March and April 2001, respectively, call for the Federal Technical Capability Panel (Panel) to identify system expertise needed versus that available at the Federal level and make recommendations to the Deputy Secretary. These deliverables have proven difficult for the Panel to develop. The Department has gathered data through the Office of Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration for these commitments and provided it to the Panel. The Panel Chairman expects to be able to provide these deliverables as a consolidated report by January 2002.

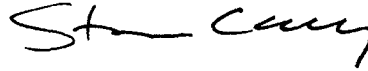
Commitment 19, due in June 2001, calls for the Panel to develop revisions to the Technical Qualification Program based on the results of the report of Commitment 18. The Panel believes the actual revisions will take considerable time to complete, but they expect to develop the path forward and a plan of action by March 2002.

Commitment 20, due in February 2002, calls for Lead Program Secretarial Officers to provide the Secretary an annual summary report of ES&H assessments at their sites. The February due date was based on compiling the reports on a Fiscal Year basis, but since many site record keeping systems use Calendar Years, the Annual reports are scheduled for April vice February.



Commitment 23 calls for the Department to place a draft revision to the *Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook* in the directives review system in December 2001. This project was delayed while establishing support contracts, but is now well under way. The draft revision is expected in April 2002 vice December 2001, but final publication should still occur on schedule in November 2002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Cary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steven V. Cary
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Environment, Safety and Health

cc:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1