



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 31, 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 (DNFSB) Recommendation 2000-2, I am forwarding information concerning Deliverables 2 and 14, due in November 2000, and 27, 28 and 29, due in January 2001 under the implementation plan.

Commitment 28 calls for the Department to "Maintain operation and funding of the Filter Test Facility at Oak Ridge, and maintain contact with the Army's Edgewood facility to remain appraised of plans for its continued operation until a revised strategy is implemented."

The Office of Environmental Management provided full funding for the Filter Test Facility in FY 2001, and the Oak Ridge Financial Plan contains an item of \$660,000 for its operation in the current fiscal year. Departmental staff stays in contact with counterparts at the Army's Edgewood facility. The facility is in operation, and recently performed testing for several commercial filter manufacturers. Until a revised HEPA filter strategy is implemented, the Oak Ridge Filter Test Facility will remain in operation. Based on our contact with the Army's Edgewood facility, we expect it also to remain in operation.

The Department has completed Commitment 28 and proposes closure of this commitment.

Four other commitments have been delayed, in some cases due to disruption of the review chain accompanying transition:


Commitment 2: Defense Programs and Environmental Management will develop lists of vital safety systems at their defense nuclear facilities and send the lists to the Federal Technical Capabilities Panel (FTCP), due November 2000. The individual lists have been developed and sent to the FTCP. We expect to complete classification review of the complete package and forward it to the Board by February 9, 2001.

Commitment 14: Provide interim secretarial guidance on establishing system engineers, due November 2000. We expect to complete this commitment by February 9, 2001.



Commitments 27 and 29: Field Management Council decide the path forward on HEPA filter testing policies and the consolidation or closing of filter testing facilities, due January 2001. The Department's Chief Operating Officers are addressing the HEPA filter issues and we expect to complete these commitments by February 23, 2001.

Sincerely,



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

cc:

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