



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

July 10, 2003

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:

In the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2000-1, *Stabilization and Storage of Nuclear Material*, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is scheduled to complete excess plutonium and uranium stabilization and packaging by December 30, 2003 (commitments 601 and 603). Enclosed is a memorandum from Ms. Camille Yuan-Soo Hoo, Department of Energy Livermore Site Office Manager, providing written notification of an anticipated 60-day slip in completion of these commitments and the reasons for this schedule variance. I agree with her assessment of the situation and think the proposed schedule variance is reasonable.

Ms. Yuan-Soo Hoo is responsible for ensuring that these commitments are met. If you have any questions, please contact her at 925-422-2572.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Everet H. Beckner".

Everet H. Beckner
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

Enclosure
cc (w/encl):
M. Whitaker, DR-1
J. Roberson, EM-1
E. Beckner, NA-10
L. Brooks, NA-1





Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Livermore Site Office
PO Box 808, L-293
7000 East Avenue
Livermore, California 94551-0808

MAY 16 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. EVERET H. BECKNER
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS

FROM:


CAMILLE YUAN-SOO HOO
MANAGER

SUBJECT: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Recommendation 2000-1 Implementation Plan Delays

This is a formal notification of a delay in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) 2000-1 commitment 601-603 for the completion of Stabilization and Packaging of Plutonium (Pu) metal, oxide, and residues at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Livermore Site Office (LSO) is recommending a 60-day delay for LLNL. The delay requested is from December 31, 2003 to February 29, 2004.

On April 9, 2003, LLNL informed LSO that the 2000-1 Stabilization and Packaging program will miss the DNFSB Recommendation 2000-1 IP commitment of December 31, 2003 by 30 days due to: 1) delay in FY 2003 funding under the Continuing Resolution that limited the LLNL ability to procure equipment for Pu processing; 2) implementation of two separate jumps to Security Condition 2 (SECON 2); and 3) loss of fissile material handlers.

After careful review of the request and further discussions with LLNL personnel, I thought it would be more appropriate to recommend a 60-day extension. It is my understanding that NA-10 needs to notify EM-1 of the delay and the revised completion date.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact James Shakiba of my staff at (925) 422-2573.

Attachment: LLNL Request to slip in the Completion Date of the Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 94-1

cc (w/att.):

D. Crandall, NA-11

M. Thompson, NA-117

P. Bubar, EM-20

J. Felty, NA-117

C. Yuan-Soo Hoo, MLSO

P. Hill, DMLSO

R. Mortensen, DMLSO

R. Kopenhaver, LSO

C. Sohn, NST

D. Wechsler, NSID

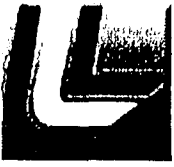
M. Sohn, NSID

J. Shakiba, NSID

J. Sefcik, LLNL, L-359

LSO RF

NSID RF



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Defense and Nuclear Technologies Nuclear Materials Technology Program

April 9, 2003
NMTP-03-064

Ms. Camille Yuan-Soo Hoo
Manager, Livermore Site Office
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 808, L-293
Livermore, CA 94551

Subject: Slip in the Completion Date of the Implementation Plan for DNFSB
Recommendation 94-1

Dear Ms. Yuan-Soo Hoo:

This letter is to inform you that LLNL is declaring a 30-day slip in the completion of the Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 94-1 because of circumstances beyond our control.

Our ability to process the material has been impacted by several recent actions. Budget activity by Congress this year forced the funding for the Department of Energy to be obtained via a series of Continuing Resolutions. The distribution of funds from NNSA headquarters based on percentages of previous fiscal year allocations led to draconian cuts in our ability to procure equipment lest we be forced to terminate employees. As a result, several critical spare parts were not procured and operations have been held up for several weeks while we currently attempt to procure those parts.

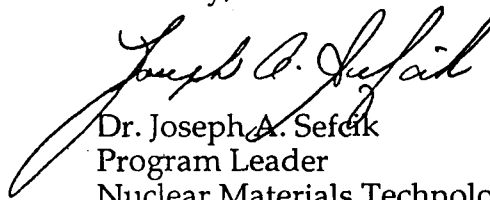
Second, the implementation of two separate jumps to Security Condition 2 (SECON 2) as a result of the Homeland Security Department raising the threat conditions to Condition Orange diverted personnel resources to execute actions consistent with our enhanced security posture. This delayed our processing activities for several days.

Finally, two of our Fissile Material handlers associated with this project have decided to leave the facility because of an increasing discomfort with the level of security that we are executing. This is a personal choice and we wish them well in their new assignments. However, the pipeline of new FMHs was interrupted by the continuing resolutions as the Laboratory has instituted a hiring freeze that is currently impacting the Nuclear Materials Technology Program. New security requirements for our PSAP-approved FMHs have been mandated by Congressional action. All of our

"Q"-Cleared personnel must now have background investigations performed by Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) personnel as opposed to the previous practice of having them performed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The shortage of qualified agents has led to significant delays (greater than one year) in obtaining clearances for new employees. This makes manpower acquisition and allocation extremely difficult. Short-term decisions by individual employees can disrupt projects in such a constrained environment.

The best information available to me at this time would indicate that it will be necessary to slip the deliverable from December 2003 to January 2004. Any further Security actions or potential FY04 continuing resolutions will further impact the schedule. If you have any questions please call me at (925) 423-0671.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph A. Sefcik
Program Leader
Nuclear Materials Technology Program

Cy: M. Anastasio, L-001
R. Beach, L-668
M. Bronson, L-359
D. Conrad, L-160
K. Dodson, L-359
A. Garcia, L-352
B. Goodwin, L-160
C. Holm, L-360
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E. Beckner, DOE/HQ, NA-10
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S. Smith, NNSA/LSO, L-360
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