



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUL 2 8 2008

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with examples of improvements in Quality Assurance (QA) activities as a result of the Office of Environmental Management (EM) overall QA improved practices.

Again, I would like to emphasize that EM views QA as an integrated management system that involves all organizational components and is not regarded as the sole domain of any single group. QA is an integral part of everything we do, from initial planning to final execution, with emphasis on work results and is a foundational element to the accomplishment of the EM mission.

I would be happy to discuss with you in more detail the specifics of the QA improvement activities, upon your request. If you have any further questions, please call me or Ms. Sandra Johnson at (202) 586-0651.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: Paul Golan, EM-3
Mark Whitaker, DR-1



(Enclosure)
Office of Environmental Management
Examples of Quality Assurance Improvement Activities

Office of River Protection

- Provided training for all field engineering, quality control, and craft supervision personnel to ensure clear communication of management expectations for procedure compliance, proper and timely completion of documentation, proper documentation methods, avoid reliance on quality control personnel to find and correct problems, and independence of field engineering and quality control inspection processes.
- Revised the Concrete Inspection procedure to clarify in-process inspection methods, how design references are to be made on pour cards, how inspection status is to be controlled, how to document and track reworked items, control of inspection records during the concrete placement and conduct documentation completion review to verify personnel understand documentation requirements and have complied with procedure requirements.
- Revised Concrete Inspection procedure to include requirement that final inspection must be completed prior to committing to concrete placement to reduce inspection pressure on inspectors.
- Revised the Construction Quality Control Program procedure to clarify how to control reworked items, how to communicate inspection status, quality program requirements for annotating or correcting in-process quality records.

Savannah River

- Revised the Corrective Action Program procedure to include internal and external audits and assessments.
- Developed a single site-wide Corrective Action Management System for trending and performance analysis.

West Valley

- Revised the Open Items Tracking System (OITS) procedure to integrate both internal and external commitments, which is transmitted electronically to numerous users.

Richland

- Revised the Control of Purchased Items procedure to include requirements for all personnel/staff involved in the procurement process to receive training on the supply chain process.
- Revised the Control of Purchased Items procedure to add an e-commerce section to the evaluated supplier list.

Oak Ridge

- Revised the Waste Tracking and Certification Oversight Program procedure to add quantitative performance measurement methods and metrics that are tied to the contractor's performance fee.

Idaho

- Revised the Integrated Safety Management System to incorporate Quality Assurance and other business management practices.

Nevada

- Revised the Design Program procedure to include value-requirements for engineering and independent design reviews