NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE SAFETY STUDY GROUP (NESSG)

Senior Technical Advisory Panel Charter

Preamble

The NESSG extended its membership to include emeritus-level experts from both inside and outside the nuclear weapon complex in CY 2000. The objective of this extended membership, referred to as the "Senior Technical Advisory Panel" (STAP), is to (1) strengthen the independence of NESSG, (2) introduce greater diversity of expertise to nuclear explosive safety studies (NESSs), especially in the area of the management of technological risks, and (3) bring additional distinguished oversight experience to the NESSG process. The requirements for Senior Technical Advisor (STA) participation in NESSs are found in DOE O 452.2X and DOE-STD-3015. The NNSA will fund the STAP, and the Service Center (SC) will manage the STAP contract, ensuring the STAP's participation in the NESS process.

Text

The STAP will function as participants in the NESSG and report to the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Applications and Stockpile Operations (NA-12), through the Office of Nuclear Weapon Surety and Quality (NA-121), consistent with the terms and conditions of their respective contracts. The role of the STAs is to advise the NESSG, especially the NESSG Chair, as well as the applicable NNSA Headquarters and Site Office leadership. This should be accomplished by writing a separate section within the NESS Report, if appropriate, to identify system/process issues. In addition to providing a separate comment section, if necessary, the STAs will sign the final NESS Report. At least one STA will participate in each NESS brought before the NESSG.

Additionally, the STAP will meet with the Director, NA-121, at least semi-annually to discuss proposals, ideas, and comments for improving the overall safety review process associated with nuclear explosive operations. Representatives from the Pantex Site Office, Nevada Site Office, Office of Secure Transportation (NA-15), and the NNSA Service Center will be invited to participate in these semi-annual meetings.

The STAP will also perform an annual self-assessment and report the results to NA-121, preferably at one of the semi-annuals meetings. These self-assessments, along with STA performance evaluations made by the NESSG Chairs (DOE-STD-3015 requirement), will be used to evaluate individual STA performance.

The STAP will prepare a report and present a briefing to NNSA Headquarters noting the Panel's observations, recommendations, and/or opportunities for improvement over the previous year. NA-12 will be the primary recipient; however, additional Headquarters organizations may be present. The STAP will coordinate a draft report and briefing through NNSA SC Nuclear Explosive Safety Division (NESD) and NA-121 no less than 45 days prior to the scheduled presentation to NNSA Headquarters. NA-121 will forward the appropriate NNSA management officials with relevant observations, recommendations, and/or opportunities for improvement and request corrective action plans, if required. The corrective action plans will be included in the

STAP briefing. Following the NNSA Headquarters briefing, with NA-12 approval, the STAP may present the annual briefing to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, if requested.

To enhance implementation of this charter, one STA may be designated as the STAP coordinator to facilitate communications and administration. It is expected that the coordination duties will be rotated among the panel members. NA-12, in consultation with NA-121 and NNSA SC NESD, will make this designation.

Approved:

David Beck
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for Military Applications
and Stockpile Operations

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