



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

JAN 14 2004

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2941

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management have issued the attached memoranda to their site offices requesting review and implementation of the recently revised *Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook* (DOE-HDBK-1169-2003). These memoranda are a deliverable as part of the Department's Implementation Plan in response to Board Recommendation 2000-2, *Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems*. This completes the Department's actions to fulfill commitment 25 of the 2000-2 Implementation Plan.

If you have questions in this regard, please call me at (301) 903-0124.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. B. Blackwood".

Edward B. Blackwood  
Director  
Office of Regulatory Liaison

**Attachments**

cc: Beverly A. Cook, EH-1  
Mark B. Whitaker, DR-1



**Department of Energy**  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585  
December 19, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR

Manager, Kansas City Site Office  
Manager, Livermore Site Office  
Manager, Los Alamos Site Office  
Manager, Nevada Site Office  
Manager, Pantex Site Office  
Manager, Sandia Site Office  
Manager, Savannah River Site Office  
Manager, Y-12 Site Office

FROM

Everet H Beckner  
Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

SUBJECT

ASSESS POTENTIAL FOR UNREVIEWED SAFETY  
QUESTIONS DUE TO ISSUANCE OF REVISED DOE-HDBK-  
1169-2003, NUCLEAR AIR CLEANING HANDBOOK

In December 2003, the Department of Energy released DOE-HDBK-1169-2003, Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook. The changes in this revision over its 1976 predecessor, ERDA 76-21, are evolutionary and represent current thinking regarding confinement ventilation systems used in nuclear facilities. It also reflects the current American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code On Nuclear Air and Gas Treatment, ASME AG-1.

Please pay particular attention to chapter 8, Testing and also the appendices. These contain discussions on the different types of testing regimens, care and handling of HEPA filters, receiving inspection, and filter service life.

An Unreviewed Safety Question could exist by an identification of Potential Inadequacy of Safety Analysis (PISA) as a result of relying on the old handbook.

Please review your authorization basis documents for any PISA resulting from changes in the new handbook over its predecessor. By April 30, 2004, inform me of any corrective actions and enter them into your local Corrective Action Tracking System. This requirement satisfies a commitment to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

The Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, DOE-HDBK-1169-2003, may be downloaded at the DOE Technical Standards website <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/>

If you have any technical questions on the handbook, please contact Jim Slawski at 301-903-5464. For matters of Unreviewed Safety Question determination, please call Samuel Johnson, NA-124, at 301-903-5220.



# memorandum

DATE: DEC 23 2003

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: EM-2 (Larry Bailey, 202-586-2975)

SUBJECT: Issuance of Revised DOE Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook (HDBK-1169-2003)

TO: Distribution

The Department of Energy released the subject handbook last week. Please review the document carefully; especially Chapter 8 on Testing as well as the appendices. An unreviewed safety question may be generated by the identification of Potential Inadequacy of Safety Analysis (PISA) as we transition to the new handbook. Therefore, you should renew your authorization basis documents for any PISA resulting from changing to the new handbook. To satisfy commitment 25 in the 2002-2 Implementation Plan (dated 10/31/00), you need to screen authorization basis documents for possible unreviewed safety questions, including filter service life. Please inform me within 90 days of any corrective actions that have been entered into CATS, and ensure that these new requirements are evaluated against the existing contracts.

The Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, DOE-HDBK-1169-2003, may be downloaded at the DOE Technical Standards website: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/>. If you have any technical questions on the handbook, please call Mr. Jim Fiore at (301) 903-3254.



Paul M. Golan  
Chief Operating Officer  
Office of Environmental Management

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