



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 10, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary's July 11, 2003 letter to you reported the status of implementation of protocols for testing High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters at defense nuclear facilities. In that letter the Department also committed to addressing the recommended changes to HEPA filter standards resulting from assessments of the HEPA Filter Test Facility operation. With the issuance of the revised Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, the Department is ready to review the four HEPA related standards in accordance with established procedures for revising DOE Technical Standards. These efforts are scheduled to coincide with ongoing transfer of the filter testing function for the Department to the Office of Quality Assurance Programs.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the schedule for revising the following four DOE technical standards:

DOE-STD-3020-97, *Specification for HEPA Filters Used by DOE Contractors*

DOE-STD-3022-98, *DOE HEPA Filter Test Program*

DOE-STD-3025-99, *Quality Assurance Inspection and Testing of HEPA Filters*

DOE-STD-3026-99, *Filter Test Facility Quality Program Plan*

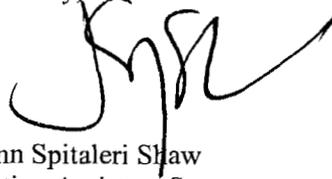
The Office of Quality Assurance Programs will utilize a team of HEPA filter technical experts to perform a comprehensive review of the standards and incorporate information from the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook and other applicable national consensus standards as well as information gathered from various assessments. The revised standards will be issued as per the enclosed schedule. We are looking forward to working with your staff in revising the standards.



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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Richard H. Lagdon, Director Office of Quality Assurance Programs, at (301) 903-4218.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Spitaleri Shaw', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Spitaleri Shaw
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Environment, Safety and Health

Enclosure

cc:

David K. Garman, S-3
Mark B. Whitaker, DR-1
Frank B. Russo, EH-3
Richard H. Lagdon, EH-31

Attachment**HEPA Technical Standard Revision Schedule**

Technical Standards	Proposed Revisions	Due Date
DOE-STD-3020-97, <i>Specification for HEPA Filters Used by DOE Contractors</i>	The standard will be revised to incorporate changes from the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, applicable national consensus standards and recommendations from past audits and assessments of HEPA filter programs and Filter Test Facility (FTF) operation	December 2005
DOE-STD-3022-98, <i>DOE HEPA Filter Test Program</i> DOE-STD-3025-99, <i>Quality Assurance Inspection and Testing of HEPA Filters</i>	These two standards will be revised in parallel. Both standards will be revised to incorporate changes made to revised DOE-STD-3020-XX and changes required as the Department moves from overseeing the operation of the FTF and into the direct purchase of filter testing services.	December 2006
DOE-STD-3026-99, <i>Filter Test Facility Quality Program Plan</i>	Because the Department is moving from overseeing the operation of the FTF and into the direct purchase of filter testing services, the need for this standard will be further evaluated.	December 2006