The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 26, 2006

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank your for your December 14, 2005, letter requesting a clear path forward for developing required guidance to evaluate and document weapon responses. This request relates to Commitment 4.2.2, Revision 1 of the Department's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 98-2, "Accelerating Safety Management Improvements at the Pantex Plant," dated October 28, 2002. Commitment 4.2.2 states, "[f]urther guidance on expectations for the evaluation and documentation of weapon response to potential accident environments and stimuli will be issued through a Technical Business Practice."

The Department now intends to issue this guidance by revising DOE-DP-STD 3016, "Hazard Analysis Reports for Nuclear Explosive Operations," and, if deemed necessary, a corresponding update to the Development and Production Manual, Chapter 11.8, "Integration of Weapon Response into Authorization Bases at the Pantex Plant." The schedule for this path forward is provided in the enclosure. The Department will consider the comments provided in your letter when making these revisions.

If you have questions, please contact me or Mr. Marty Schoenbauer, Acting Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, at (202) 586-2179.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman

Enclosure

cc: R. Tontodonato, DNFSB
M. Whitaker, DR-1

ENCLOSURE

Recommendation 98-2 Path Forward for Guidance on Evaluation of Weapon Response

ACTION	*LEAD/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	DATE
1. Meet with weapon design laboratories on current processes for development of weapon response information and potential process improvements.	**Office of Nuclear Weapon Surety and Quality (NA-121)**/Office of Nuclear Weapons Stockpile (NA-122), Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories	February 10, 2006
2. Review DOE-DP-STD-3016, "Hazard Analysis Reports for Nuclear Explosive Operations," Development and Production (D&P) Manual, Chapter 11.8, "Integration of Weapon Response into Authorization Bases at the Pantex Plant," and Technical Business Practice (TBP) 907 (Draft), "Hazard Analysis and Weapon Response," and other relevant Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission documents.	**NA-121**/NA-122, Pantex Site Office (PXSO)	February 28, 2006
3. Revise DOE-DP-STD-3016, revise or eliminate D&P Manual, Chapter 11.8, and eliminate TBP-907 (Draft).	**NA-121**/NA-122, PXSO	March 31, 2006
4. Issue DOE-DP-STD-3016, and possibly D&P Manual, Chapter 11.8, for complex-wide review.	**NA-121**/NA-122, PXSO,	April 13, 2006
5. Submit DOE-DP-STD-3016 and possibly D&P Manual Chapter 11.8 for publication.	**NA-121**	May 26, 2006

*Lead/participating organizations: NA-121 is the lead organization for all tasks. NA-121 (Chuck Westfall), Office of Nuclear Weapon Surety and Quality, NNSA/HQ; NA-122 (Wendy Baca), Office of Nuclear Weapons Stockpile, NNSA/HQ; PXSO (Steve Erhart), Pantex Site Office; LANL, Los Alamos National Laboratory; LLNL, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; SNL, Sandia National Laboratories.