



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 30, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Central Technical Authority (CTA) for Energy has completed Commitment 2 in the Department's 2004-1 Implementation Plan, Revision 2, dated October 12, 2006. Specifically, the deliverable for this commitment is the enclosed memorandum to the Secretary declaring the CTA has adequate technical support for providing the basis for this declaration.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Richard Lagdon at (202) 586-9471.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Garman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David K. Garman

Enclosure

cc: Deputy Secretary
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Under Secretary for Science
Departmental Representative, DNFSB






The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 27, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: DAVID K. GARMAN 

SUBJECT: Technical Support for the Energy Central Technical Authority

The Energy Central Technical Authority (CTA) was established as part of the Department's Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2004-1. Commitment 2 of that Implementation Plan requires that the Energy CTA send you a report by October 2006 declaring that the CTA has adequate technical support and providing a basis for that declaration. This memorandum fulfills commitment 2.

The Energy CTA is supported by the Chief of Nuclear Safety (CNS) and his staff. The Energy CTA function was formally established in April 2005. This group of technical experts will provide the technical support necessary for the CTA to fulfill the CTA functions, responsibilities, and authorities defined in DOE Manual M 411.1-1 C, *Safety Management Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manual*.

The Office of the CNS was established in January 2006 in response to DNFSB 2004-1 and the Columbia space shuttle accident. The Department concluded that the Office of the CNS should be a small group of recognized experts with diverse technical education and experience who would provide operational awareness and technical nuclear safety advice to senior Energy line managers. Chief of Nuclear Safety, Richard H. Lagdon, was selected in January 2006 after a nation-wide search. Mr. Lagdon is a respected expert in the field of nuclear safety. He has more than 25 years experience in the nuclear industry including service as an NRC licensed senior reactor operator at a commercial nuclear power station. All the planned positions on the staff of the CNS have been filled with permanent career Federal employees of the highest caliber. The positions that comprise the office of the CNS are described in Attachment 1.



The CNS and all the technical staff personnel within the Office of the CNS are required to qualify as Senior Technical Safety Managers where applicable. Those members of the Office of the CNS who have not completed qualifications are expected to qualify in accordance with the Department's Federal Technical Capabilities Program Manual. The CNS resides in the Office of the Under Secretary while the staff, which functionally reports to the CNS, is administratively assigned to EM-60.

The CNS and his staff also work closely with the Chief of Defense Nuclear Safety to promote consistency and share technical resources where appropriate.

Attachments

Attachment 1

Office of the Chief of Nuclear Safety Staff Positions

The Office of the CNS is comprised of the Chief of Nuclear Safety and the following staff positions:

- Nuclear Engineer -- Expert on nuclear engineering issues and/or criticality safety.
- Mechanical Engineer/Acquisition Professional -- Experienced technical director who has led technical authority aspects of a major acquisition program to maximize effectiveness of incorporating nuclear safety technical requirements into contracts. Also, mechanical engineer with civil and environmental engineering training, acquisition program experience, and an operational background to support mechanical, civil, and nuclear design reviews of major nuclear facility construction projects and reviews of subsequent operations and maintenance.
- Nuclear Safety and Operations Engineer -- Expert in conduct of operations, safety system oversight, integrated safety management, and in the implementation of DOE O 425.1 C, Startup and Restart of Nuclear Facilities.
- Safety Engineer -- Expert on DOE Rules, Directives, and Standards and their implementation governing the development, approval, and maintenance of authorization basis documents and programs for nuclear facility design, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Nuclear Safety -- Expert on nuclear facility safety management and the application of rules, codes, and standards to the design, safety analysis, operation and maintenance of nuclear facilities. This position supports nuclear design reviews of major nuclear facilities and construction projects.
- Quality Assurance (QA) Engineer -- Expert on DOE rules, directives, and standards and their implementation governing the development, approval, and maintenance of QA programs and implementing documents; quality control programs; and integrated safety management systems for nuclear facility design, construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- Software Quality Assurance Engineer -- Expert on DOE rules, directives, and standards and their implementation governing the development, approval, and

maintenance of Software QA Programs and policy. Expert on software requirements and design and the Central Registry of toolbox codes.

- Nuclear Facilities and Tritium Risk Specialist -- Expert on the risks associated with the operation and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. This position also entails expert knowledge of tritium processing, handling, storage, recovery, and disposition.