



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 9, 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 Central Technical Authority for the Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment is in the process of completing Commitment 2 in the Department's 2004-1 Implementation Plan, dated June 10, 2005. Specifically, the deliverable for this commitment is a memorandum to the Secretary that is included as an attachment.

The Chief of Nuclear Safety has selected five technical personnel that are being processed by the Office of Human Resources Services. Three positions were canceled without selection due to the lack of qualified applicants. The search will continue until suitable personnel are identified, either through reposting or directed reassignments from within the Department. We expect to complete staffing for the Office of the Chief of Nuclear Safety by September 2006.

I am confident that these actions will greatly improve nuclear safety and our project management performance for nuclear facilities. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Richard Lagdon at (202) 586-9741.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Garman", written over a horizontal line.

David K. Garman


Enclosure



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 1, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: DAVID K. GARMAN 

SUBJECT: Technical Support for the Energy, Science and Environment
Central Technical Authority

The Energy, Science and Environment (ESE) 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 ESE CTA send you a report by April 2006 declaring that the CTA has adequate technical support and providing a basis for that declaration. This memorandum provides the current status of this action.

The ESE CTA is supported by the Chief of Nuclear Safety (CNS). The position was formally filled on January 22, 2006. The CNS, Mr. Richard H. Lagdon, is a respected expert in the field of nuclear safety. He has more than 24 years experience in the nuclear field. As a Naval Reactors qualified Shift Test Engineer, he has directed the construction, operation, and testing of aircraft carrier reactor plants. He also was a licensed Senior Reactor Operator and supervised the operation of a commercial nuclear plant and conducted nuclear plant licensing and engineering. In 14 years with DOE, he has been actively involved in Operational Readiness Reviews for nearly all major restarts and was the lead for DNFSB Recommendation 2002-1, Software Quality Assurance.

The CNS has selected five of eight personnel from recently advertised postings. Their start dates are pending processing by the Office of Human Resources Services. The remaining three positions will be filled either by reposting the positions or directed transfers. The full complement of eight will be achieved by September 2006.

The CNS and his staff will be integrated into line management to ensure effective line oversight activities. They may also be assigned to support specific projects, and other technical initiatives to improve line performance. I am confident that this approach will improve line management accountability and further ensure nuclear safety risks are properly addressed.

