

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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April 14, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has evaluated your letter of February 5, 2010, requesting closure of Recommendation 2002-1, *Quality Assurance for Safety-Related Software*. The Board agrees that Recommendation 2002-1 has been completed, and hereby closes it. Further, the Board wishes to recognize the efforts of the Department of Energy (DOE) personnel who worked diligently for several years to develop DOE's framework for quality assurance for safety software.

The Board and its staff will continue to monitor progress on this vital safety topic. Specific focus areas will include the following:

- DOE's timely revision of DOE Order 414.1C, *Quality Assurance*, which will improve the implementation of quality assurance for safety software by incorporating more rigorous requirements for the control of safety software inventories, approval of grading levels of safety software, and adoption of a comprehensive consensus standard for quality.
- DOE's development of a requirement to select and apply a consensus standard for the grading of each safety software work activity, which is not clearly addressed in DOE's *Final Report to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for the Closure of Recommendation 2002-1, Quality Assurance for Safety Related Software*, issued in November 2009.

The Board encourages DOE to continue its close coordination with the Board's staff to ensure continuous improvement in both the framework for quality assurance for safety software and its implementation at all organizational levels.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.