



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 13, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is in receipt of your July 1, 2010, letter which identified a concern regarding the adequacy of DOE's recently developed interim guidance on design and operational criteria for safety class and safety significant fire protection systems. Your letter also requested DOE promptly inform the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) of any delays in implementing DNFSB Recommendation 2008-1, *Safety Classification of Fire Protection Systems*.

We appreciate your advice on this matter and understand the concerns. To resolve the issue, we will continue to work closely with your staff as we update the technical criteria in the interim guide for inclusion into DOE's fire protection standard. In addition, DOE will notify the Board of any anticipated issues or delays in implementing DNFSB Recommendation 2008-1. Enclosed is an update to the Department's implementation plan schedule, which reflects our current expectations for the remaining plan deliverables.

As you know, the Department is fully committed to the safe design and operation of our defense nuclear facilities, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Board toward that end.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. B. Poneman", written over a circular stamp.

Daniel B. Poneman

Enclosure



cc: Thomas P. D'Agostino, US
Kristina M. Johnson, US
Steven E. Koonin, US
Scott B. Harris, GC-1
Glenn S. Podonsky, HS-1
Mari-Josette Campagnone, HS-1.1

Revised Summary of Milestones/Commitments

No.	Milestones/Commitment	Deliverable	Anticipated Delivery Date
5.3.2	Issue Interim Guidance on Design and Operational Criteria for Sprinkler Systems.	Interim guidance	Completed
5.4.1	Identify types of fire protection systems (in addition to sprinkler systems) for which DOE will establish specific design and operating criteria.	List of types of fire protection systems	Completed
5.4.2	Draft Design and Operational Criteria for Selected Fire Protection Systems.	Draft Criteria	November 2010
5.5.1	Revise DOE-STD-1066 to include new design and operational criteria.	Draft Standard	January 2011
5.5.2	Finalize and issue DOE-STD-1066.	Final Standard	May 2011
5.6.1	Draft changes to other impacted DOE directives.	Draft revision to DOE Directives	September 2010
5.6.2	Finalize and issue directives.	Final Directives	May 2011
6.3	Provide Board briefings.	Briefings – Semiannually	Ongoing (Started September 2008)