



95-0003341

**The Secretary of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

July 7, 1995

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your April 5, 1995, letter, which raised certain concerns with the Department's implementation of Recommendation 93-6, Maintaining Access to Nuclear Weapons Expertise in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex.

In February 1994 the Department of Energy accepted Recommendation 93-6. Subsequently, the Department developed an implementation plan designed to retain access to and identify and capture the unique knowledge and skills of individuals involved in disassembly, modification, and testing of nuclear weapons.

In an effort to address the types of concerns you raised and to refine the Department's method of identifying and capturing this unique knowledge, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs conducted an Executive-Level Summit to focus management attention on Recommendation 93-6 and determine the effective course of action. This Summit, conducted on April 6, 1995, reached the conclusion that a revision to the Implementation Plan was necessary. The forthcoming revised Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-6 will capitalize on activities that have been initiated either in response to the recommendation or other related programs. For example, the Department's Seamless Safety for the 21st Century Program provides project direction to identify the skills and knowledge required to meet the intent of Recommendation 93-6.

I have asked the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs to ensure that a revised draft Implementation Plan, will be completed within 30 days of this letter. This plan will address the intent of Recommendation 93-6 and the concerns expressed in your April 5, 1995 letter.

One of the specific concerns raised in your letter was the removal of administrative obstacles to gain access to retirees having expertise related to weapons. Enclosed is Department of Energy Notice 3131.1, which will allow the Department to gain access to retirees as required. The concerns expressed in the remaining three examples cited in the Board's April 5, 1995 letter will be addressed in the revised Implementation Plan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazel R. O'Leary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Hazel R. O'Leary

Enclosure

# U.S. Department of Energy

Washington, D.C.

## NOTICE

DOE N 3131.1

# ADVANCE COPY

4-28-95

EXPIRES: 4-28-96

**SUBJECT: ACCESS TO SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES OF RETIRED SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM**

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It is the policy of the Department of Energy to have ready access to retired scientists and engineers who may be needed on a part-time basis to support the Department's nuclear weapons program. The Department will maintain a list of individually identified retirees, including an affirmation of their agreement to be members of the retiree corps and necessary identification information to ensure ready access. The purposes for such access include archiving technical information, data and recollections not available from the active work force in areas related to weapons disassembly and nuclear weapons testing; assisting stockpile stewardship activities as required; and training replacement scientists and engineers. Access to members of the corps will not be restricted by other policies of DOE or within the control of DOE unless explicitly agreed to by the Secretary of Energy, and members of the retiree corps will maintain their security clearances for as long as they are in the retiree corps program. Further, inclusion in the corps will not amend, abrogate, or affect any retirement annuity with regard to any DOE-imposed restrictions on such annuity.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY:



ARCHER L. DURHAM  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Resources and Administration

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