

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

February 13, 1995

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Conway:

The Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-2 requires a quarterly status report. Enclosed is the Department of Energy's quarterly status report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1995.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor H. Reis".

Victor H. Reis  
Assistant Secretary  
for Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc:  
Mark Whitaker, EH-6, w/encl.



QUARTERLY STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
FOR  
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 93-2  
FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 1995

The Nuclear Criticality Experiments Steering Committee (NCESC), as delineated in the Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 93-2, met twice during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 1995. An updated roster of NCESC and subcommittee membership is attached to this report. Accomplishments and key issues discussed by the NCESC during this period of time are as follows:

- o The NCESC co-chairmen selected Ivon Fergus as chairman of the Methodology and Experiments Subcommittee. Max Clausen was selected to continue as chairman of the Training Subcommittee. During the first year, both subcommittees contributed significantly to the success of the NCESC, and their previous leadership was commended.
- o The NCESC set priorities for the subcommittees for FY 1995. The Methodology and Experiments Subcommittee will focus on the annual review and prioritization of the experimental needs list and a detailed review of proposed code modifications and nuclear data needs that could improve criticality predictability. The Training Subcommittee will focus on identifying specific training needs, modifying existing courses to meet identified needs, and integrating hands-on criticality safety training with the Department's established training program. In addition, both subcommittees will also be working in support of an NCESC initiative to propose an equitable stakeholder funding strategy that enhances the Department's capability to make continuous improvements in criticality predictability and training.
- o The NCESC decided to invite the Albuquerque Operations Office (AL) to provide a special nonvoting member to the NCESC for an indefinite period of time, in accordance with the provisions of section II.C.2. of the Charter. Because the two nuclear facilities where the Department would most likely perform critical experiments (the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility and Sandia's Area V Facilities) fall under the purview of AL, it was considered beneficial to have the Operations Office's perspective represented at NCESC meetings. Mr. Bob Walston will represent AL at NCESC meetings.

The NCESC has continued to make significant progress in addressing the key issues surrounding the maintenance of nuclear criticality experiments and training capabilities. The focus of the Committee in the next quarter will be to develop an equitable stakeholder funding strategy that enhances the Department's capability to make continuous improvements in criticality predictability and training. In addition, the NCESC will use the technical subcommittees, with additional expertise as required, to continue assessing and prioritizing facility, experimental, predictability, and training needs and to help justify the funding necessary to support these needs.

Attachment

NUCLEAR CRITICALITY STEERING COMMITTEE (ALL DOE FEDS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
LTC Jim Felty (Co-Chairman)	3-5494	9743	DP-11
Roger Dintaman (Co-Chairman)	3-3642	6628	DP-13
Dennis Cabrilla	427-1693	1016	EM-431
Max Clausen	6-8217	7705	FM
Al Evans	3-4896	9513	ER-13
Tom Evans	6-3887	3472	HR
Ivon Fergus	3-6364	4672	EH-11
Harry Alter	3-3766	3808	NE-42
Burton Rothleder	3-3726	1182	EH-64
Bob Walston (nonvoting)	505-845-5694	6431	DOE/AL

METHODOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE (FEDS AND CONTRACTORS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
Ivon Fergus (Chairman)	3-6364	4672	EH-11
Dennis Cabrilla	427-1693	1016	EM-431
Burton Rothleder	3-3726	1182	EH-64
Rick Anderson	505-667-4839	5-3657	LANL
R. Michael Westfall	615-574-5267	3527	ORNL
J. Blair Briggs	208-526-7628	0528	INEL
Richard Malenfant	6-0327	0485	LANL
Ed Fujita	708-252-4866	4500	ANL
Dennis Galvin	3-2972	8754	DP-31

TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE (FEDS AND CONTRACTORS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
Max Clausen (Chairman)	6-8217	7705	FM
Dick Trevillian	3-3074	4672	EH-11
Tom McLaughlin	505-667-7628	5-4970	LANL
Henry Harper	208-533-7775	7623	ANL
Richard G. Vornehm	615-576-2289	241-2772	Y-12
Nick Delaplane	6-9403	7734	EM-121
George Kachadorian	202-275-6445	7710	HR-33