National Nuclear Security Administration

Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

JUL 16 2012

RECEIVED
JUL 17 2012
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your letter of April 18, 2012, and staff report which documented concerns with the implementation of quality assurance requirements as specified in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 830, Subpart A, at the Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). Your letter established a 90-day reporting requirement for a report and briefing. This letter transmits the report from the Sandia Site Office (SSO) and SNL. The briefing will be scheduled for the week of August 16, 2012, when the Board visits SNL. I share your concerns on the importance of adequate compliance with approved consensus standards for the quality assurance program at our sites.

SNL and SSO are committed to improving the quality assurance program, including software quality assurance, for the ACRR facility. The enclosed consolidated report from SSO and SNL provides current and planned actions to address the Board's concerns (Enclosure 1). Enclosure 2, *TA-V ACRR Facility Improvement Plan,* captures improvement opportunities in the area of quality assurance requirements implementation, procedures for safety software quality assurance (SSQA), and applicability of consensus standard for SSQA including prioritization methodology for safety software. SSO will continue to work with and coordinate discussions with your staff and SNL, to ensure adequate resolution of these concerns.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael Thompson at (202) 586- 5091.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. COOK
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

Enclosures

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper