



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 6, 2005

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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger  
Acting Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Dr. Eggenberger:

The Department of Energy acknowledges receipt of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, issued on March 10, 2005.

In response to Recommendations 94-1, 97-1, and 2000-1, the Department has made significant progress towards stabilizing and safely storing its nuclear materials, primarily plutonium metal and oxide materials and Uranium-233. For example, all of the commitments included in the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 97-1, *Safe Storage of Uranium-233*, and over two-thirds of the commitments in the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2000-1, *Stabilization and Storage of Nuclear Materials*, have been completed. Your Recommendation 2005-1 addresses storage requirements for other categories of nuclear materials that are beyond the scope of the Implementation Plans for Recommendations 94-1, 97-1, and 2000-1.

The Department accepts Recommendation 2005-1, and will develop an Implementation Plan to identify and issue additional nuclear material packaging and storage requirements. The Plan will address the following activities.

- Specify the nuclear materials to which new requirements will apply. This effort will include conducting a survey of the sites currently storing nuclear materials.
- Develop the technical criteria and requirements that must be satisfied to ensure safe storage and handling of these materials, including the requirements for surveillance of packaged materials when appropriate.
- Develop a prioritized plan for implementing the above criteria and requirements based on the hazards and risks posed by the existing packaging configurations and conditions.



I have assigned Mr. Richard Stark, Director, Office of Facilities Operations Support, as the Department's responsible manager for developing the Implementation Plan. He can be reached on (301) 903-4407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

Samuel W. Bodman