



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

February 3, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the "Quarterly Report for the Implementation Plan Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 98-2, Accelerating Safety Management Improvements at the Pantex Plant," for the period October 1 through December 31, 2003.

During this reporting period, the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration made progress toward completion of the 98-2 commitments and provided the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board closure notification for Commitment 4.4.4 requiring revision and implementation of the Nevada Site Office, nuclear explosive safety study orders. Twenty-three out of twenty-seven commitments have been delivered and four remain outstanding.

If you have questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879 or have your staff contact Ms. Debra Volk at 505-845-5106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Beck".

David E. Beck
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and
Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc w/enclosures:
J. McConnell, DNFSB
W. Andrews, DNFSB
A. Matteucci, DNFSB
M. Whitaker, DR-1
D. Glenn, PXSO



Quarterly Report for the Implementation Plan

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Recommendation 98-2**

*Accelerating Safety Management Improvements
at the Pantex Plant*

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

October 1 through December 31, 2003

*Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs
U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration*

1.0 Introduction

On September 25, 2000, the Secretary of Energy approved Revision 1 to the 98-2 Implementation Plan (IP) and provided a copy to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). Change 1, to Revision 1 was provided on October 28, 2002, and was accepted by the DNFSB on December 19, 2002. The following report for the period October 1 through December 31, 2003, tracks progress towards completing the commitments outlined in the 98-2 IP, Revision 1, as modified and expanded through Change 1 to Revision 1.

2.0 General Progress

From October 1 through December 31, 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE) completed Commitment 4.4.4 requiring revision and implementation of the Nevada Site Office nuclear explosive safety study (NESS) orders.

3.0 Task Area Status

The status of open commitments is provided below for each task area of the 98-2 IP, Revision 1.

4.0 Safety Issue Resolution

4.1 Define Scope of Work

There are no outstanding commitments within this task area.

4.2 Analyze Hazards

There are no outstanding commitments within this task area.

4.3 Develop and Implement Controls

Commitment 4.3.4 - The purpose of this commitment is to validate implementation of the improved site-wide technical safety requirement (TSR) controls for on-site transportation of nuclear explosives.

Deliverable: The DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) Report.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is planning to complete and issue the final RA Report 90 working days after the BWXT Pantex General Manager declares readiness. This declaration of readiness will be issued upon the completion of the final Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA) scheduled for March 2005 and the resolution and/or corrective action plans (post-start findings only) for any identified CRA findings. Reference Official Use Only, "TSR Integrated Implementation Plan, Revision 1," dated August 18, 2003, submitted to the DNFSB on September 30, 2003, for CRA schedules.

4.4 Perform Work

Commitment 4.4.5 - The purpose of this commitment is to authorize startup of the W78 Seamless Safety (SS)-21 process.

Deliverable: The W78 SS-21 Startup Authorization.

The W78 NESS closeout will occur in January 2004. The NESS approval and closure of associated activities are expected by the end of January 2004. Operations are anticipated to commence in February 2004.

Commitment 4.4.6 - The purpose of this commitment is to authorize startup of the B83 SS-21 process.

Deliverable: The B83 SS-21 Startup Authorization.

Scheduled completion for the B83 SS-21 startup authorization is May 30, 2004. Based on further delays related to weapon response, the B83 Project Team is evaluating impacts on the project schedule completion date. The project team is working resolution and projects to have a revised project plan by February 6, 2004, with the B83 SS-21 startup authorization completion by October 2004.

Commitment 4.5.1 – The DOE will complete a comprehensive assessment of the actions taken in response to Recommendation 98-2.

Deliverable: Final Assessment Report.

The final assessment report will be completed after the NNSA closure of the 98-2 commitments summarized in sections 4.3 and 4.4 above.