



96-0000002

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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:

In the Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 91-6, the Department of Energy (DOE) committed that the core training for general employees, radiological workers, and radiological control technicians be accomplished by December 31, 1994. Defense Programs (DP) has surveyed the status of training at DP defense nuclear facilities, and for all contractors the general employee and radiological worker training has been completed. Radiological control technician training had also been completed at DP facilities as of November 1995, with the following exceptions.

Three of the six technicians employed by MK Ferguson at Y-12 had completed training. Training is continuing for the other three technicians. They are performing only functions for which they have been trained.

Approval of an exemption to 10 CFR 835.903 training requirements for technicians at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has been recommended to the Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (EH-1) by EH-1 staff until June 30, 1996, at which time LLNL is scheduled to have completed the training including Oral Boards. The Oakland Operations Office has determined that the knowledge of the LLNL technicians permits them to operate without causing safety concerns, and is monitoring the progress toward completion of their training.

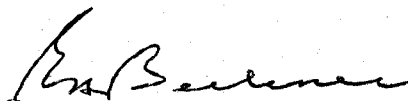
Nine newly hired technicians at Pantex will complete formal training by September 1996. The new technicians do not perform radiological control functions on their own. The other 40 technicians have been trained and are already undergoing recertification.

All DP defense nuclear facility sites must be in compliance with 10 CFR 835 on January 1, 1996, except for LLNL which applied for the stated exemption. Subpart J requires that radiological workers and control technicians must be trained commensurate with their assignment, or be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a trained worker. This provides adequate

worker protection during training of new hires and during correction of any discovered deficiencies in knowledge. For this reason, DP believes that no further reports on the status of radiological control training pursuant to Recommendation 91-6 are needed for its defense nuclear facilities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or have your staff contact Diane Larsen, the Radiological Control Program Advisor for DP, at (301) 903-7316.

Sincerely,



Everet H. Beckner
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Defense Programs