



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 28, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

I would like to bring you up-to-date with regard to the status of the Department's response to and integration of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-1 Action 4 Report and the Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Corrective Action Plan (NESSCAP) of September 30 and June 15, 1994, respectively. As you know, these two nuclear explosive safety efforts have been combined into a single program to assure the coordination and integration of actions related to the Departmental nuclear explosive safety orders and directives.

The Recommendation 93-1/NESSCAP Implementation Plan, currently in process for joint approval by the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs and the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health (EH), describes the management structure, methods of operation, and expected products which will be the proposed Departmental orders and standards that affect nuclear explosive operations and facilities.

The first bimonthly report (September-October 1994) described the revised management structure (Enclosure 1), which will provide for more efficient management and control of the many Recommendation 93-1/NESSCAP activities. This change from the previously submitted management concept consolidates all three principal working groups under a single effort (93-1/NESSCAP Working Group) with subsidiary subject matter expert (SME) teams provided by the Albuquerque and Nevada Operations Offices. In addition, this plan recalls the Orders Integration Group and establishes a senior management level Policy Oversight Group.

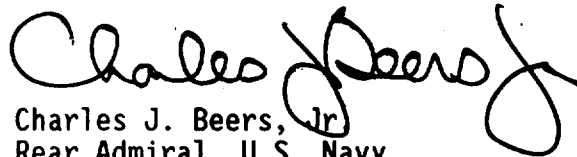
Since the 93-1/NESSCAP effort cuts across many departmental areas, the need for a Policy Oversight Group to coordinate that effort has become more apparent. This group will be chartered to oversee the orders enhancement and integration process, and assure that proposed orders and other documentation are consistent with the Department's long-range goals, policies, and objectives. The Policy Oversight Group will be co-chaired by myself and a nominee from EH to assure that these results are achieved. Members will be from the Offices of DP and EH as well as the Oakland, Albuquerque, and Nevada Operations Offices; senior technical advisors will be provided by each national laboratory. The first meeting of this group has been tentatively scheduled for January 18, 1995.

The Albuquerque Operations Office recently proposed the use of their draft Supplemental Directives (SDs) 5610.10 and 5610.11 to address both Recommendation 93-1 and NESSCAP issues. These SDs, which are applicable primarily to the Albuquerque Operations at Pantex, include many of the Recommendation 93-1/NESSCAP findings and incorporate elements of the Stockpile Stewardship (SS-21) initiatives. A 93-1/NESSCAP Working Group review showed the SDs to be a sound platform from which to base our final order development and enhance the integration of the two efforts; the SME teams will utilize the SDs to the maximum extent possible while tempering them for complex-wide applicability.

With the change in management structure, a more efficient grouping of SME teams and NESSCAP effort, and the incorporation/use of the AL SDs, a new program schedule has been developed (Enclosure 2). Internal milestones for SME dates have changed, but the overall schedule deadline has not been effected.

As always, the Department is committed to keep you updated on the program status. Our goal and primary focus will be the successful integration of both of these efforts which will result in genuine and comprehensive improvements to the NESS process.

I look forward to our continued good working relationship with your staff and will solicit your input and guidance as this effort unfolds.



Charles J. Beers, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Military Application and
Stockpile Support
Defense Programs

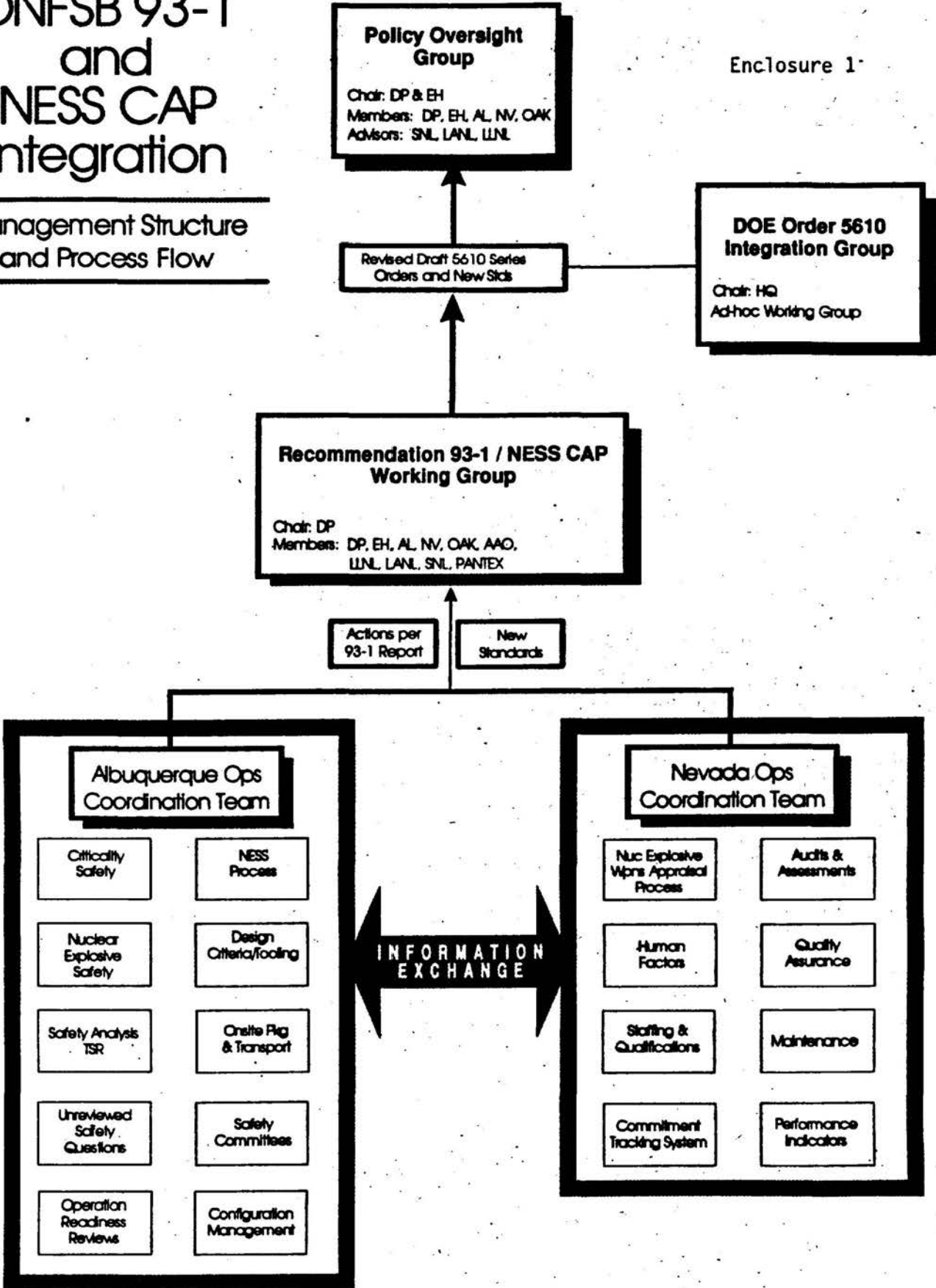
2 Enclosures:
Management Structure/Process Flow
93-1/NESSCAP Schedule

DNFSB 93-1 and NESS CAP Integration

November 21, 1994

Enclosure 1

Management Structure
and Process Flow



DNFSB Recommendation 93-1/NESSCAP Schedule

1994

1995

Tasks	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
1. Planning/Coordination Group										
a. Establish Plan/Coord Group	█									
b. Plan/Coord Group Meetings	•	•								
2. Implementation Plan (IP)										
a. Develop/Coord IP	█	█	█	█						
b. Approval Process			█	█	█					
3. Policy Oversight Group (POG)										
a. Organize POG				█	█					
b. POG Meetings					•	•	•	•	•	•
4. 93-1/NESSCAP Working Group										
a. Establish 93-1/NESSCAP WG			█	█	█					
b. 93-1/NESSWG Meetings			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
c. Establish SME Group(s)		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
d. SME Team Operations/Activities		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
5. New Orders & Standards										
a. Develop Draft Orders & Standards						█	█	█	█	█
b. 5610 Integration & Deliberations						█	█	█	█	█
c. Policy Review of Orders/Standards								█	█	█
d. Begin Formal Approval Action										█
6. Deliverables										
a. Bi-Monthly Status Reports			•		•		•		•	
b. Implementation Plan				•						
c. Draft DOE 5610 Series Order										•
d. Final DOE 5610 Series Order										TBD