

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
John W. Crawford, Jr.
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004
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August 12, 1994

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

On December 19, 1991, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 2286a(5), transmitted to the Secretary of Energy Recommendation 91-6, "Radiation Protection for Workers and the General Public at DOE Defense Nuclear Facilities". Former Secretary Watkins accepted the Recommendation on January 31, 1992. Under your direction and leadership, DOE developed an Implementation Plan approved by the Board on July 2, 1993.

As provided in the Implementation Plan, the Board's staff has been meeting regularly with your representatives to review DOE's progress in implementing Recommendation 91-6. Our review of DOE's status reports indicates delays in completing and in some cases even initiating key tasks. These delays could indicate a loss of management attention and support for this vital program.

Among the task delays we have noted are the following:

1. The 1993 Annual Report to the Secretary of Energy on progress towards full implementation of the Radiological Control Manual has not yet been completed. The report was due in early 1994. Our understanding is that a draft report is still under review.
2. The task on review of the management and infrastructure of the DOE radiation protection program by the independent external evaluation team was scheduled to be completed and reported by January 1994. We understand that this review will not be completed until September 1994 at the earliest.
3. The Implementation Plan includes a task to determine if the Occurrence Reporting and Performance System could be used to strengthen the radiological protection program at DOE sites. A DOE task force made recommendations for improvements to the Occurrence Reporting and Performance System to achieve that purpose. The Radiological Control Coordination Committee is assigned the task of evaluating the recommendations and developing schedules for implementation of the improvements. This task, scheduled to be completed in June 1994, is not yet complete.

The Board wants to draw your special attention to this matter, which merits early remedy. The Board wishes to be informed by the upcoming quarterly report or earlier as to the measures that are planned or taken to satisfy the Implementation Plan commitments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A.J. Eggenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

A.J. Eggenberger
Vice-Chairman and
for the Chairman

Copy to: Mark B. Whitaker, Acting EH-6