



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 14, 1996

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Conway:

The Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-2 requires a quarterly status report. Enclosed is the Department of Energy's quarterly status report for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Stello, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Victor Stello, Jr.
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Quality
Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc:

Mark Whitaker, S-3.1 w/enc.



**QUARTERLY STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
FOR
DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 93-2
FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 1996**

The Nuclear Criticality Experiments Steering Committee (NCESC), as delineated in the Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 93-2, met twice during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 1996. An updated roster of NCESC and Subcommittee membership is attached to this report. Accomplishments and key issues discussed by the NCESC during this period of time are as follows:

- o The NCESC and its two supporting technical subcommittees completed an extensive review of the full program requirements which provide the basis for maintaining the Department's nuclear criticality predictive capability. A report documenting this review is being developed and will be completed in the second quarter of FY 1996. Preliminary findings confirm significant funding shortfalls in three of the five program elements. The NCESC began examining funding and management options to address these shortfalls and will make a recommendation to Departmental management in the second quarter of FY 1996 on a long-term plan for the institutionalization of this program.
- o The NCESC Co-Chairmen conducted a meeting to develop a schedule for hands-on criticality training at the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility (LACEF) and to discuss other issues surrounding this training. Six courses have been scheduled in FY 1996. Because of the expense of the hands-on training at the LACEF, two initiatives are being pursued. A cost recovery system is being established to defray some of the cost of this training. Tuition has been set at \$1,000 per student for the three-day course and \$1,500 per student for the five-day course. The second initiative involves evaluation of computer assisted alternative training options.

The NCESC has continued to make significant progress in addressing the key issues surrounding the maintenance of the Department's nuclear criticality predictive capability. The focus of the Committee in the next quarter will be to recommend a long-term funding strategy that enhances the Department's capability to make continuous improvements in criticality predictability and training. In addition, the NCESC will use the technical subcommittees, with additional expertise as required, to continue assessing and prioritizing needs and to help justify the funding necessary to address these needs.

Attachment

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

NUCLEAR CRITICALITY EXPERIMENTS STEERING COMMITTEE (ALL DOE FEDS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
Paul Vogel (Co-Chairman)	301-903-4312	6624	DP-11
Roger Dintaman (Co-Chairman)	301-903-3642	6628	DP-13
Matt Hutmaker	301-903-3921	3419	NE-40
Dennis Cabrilla	301-903-7468	1959	EM-4
Max Clausen	202-586-8217	7705	FM
Al Evans	301-903-4896	9513	ER-13
Ivon Fergus	301-903-6364	4672	EH-22
George Kachadorian	202-426-1320	1480	HR-21
Burton Rothleder	301-903-3726	1182	EH-31
Bob Walston (nonvoting)	505-845-5694	6431	DOE/AL

METHODOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE (FEDS AND CONTRACTORS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
Ivon Fergus (Chairman)	301-903-6364	4672	EH-22
Dennis Cabrilla	301-903-7468	1959	EM-4
Dennis Galvin	301-903-2972	8754	DP-31
Burton Rothleder	301-903-3726	1182	EH-31
Rick Anderson	505-667-4839	5-3657	LANL
J. Blair Briggs	208-526-7628	0528	INEL
Ed Fujita	708-252-4866	4500	ANL
R. Michael Westfall	615-574-5267	3527	ORNL

TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE (FEDS AND CONTRACTORS)

	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>FAX NO.</u>	<u>ORGAN.</u>
Max Clausen (Chairman)	202-586-8217	7705	FM
Nick Delaplane	202-586-9403	7734	EM-121
George Kachadorian	202-426-1320	1480	HR-21
Dick Trevillian	301-903-3074	4672	EH-11
Henry Harper	208-533-7775	7623	ANL
Tom Mclaughlin	505-667-7628	5-4970	LANL