



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUL 11 2001

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Consistent with the Department's implementation plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 2000-2, I am forwarding information concerning Deliverable 27, due in January 2001 under the implementation plan.

Commitment 27 calls for the Department to review the consolidation of the Oak Ridge Filter Test Facility and a Qualified Products List laboratory. Enclosed is a memorandum describing the Department's path forward

The Department has completed Commitment 27 and proposes closure of this commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven V. Cary".

Steven V. Cary
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Environment, Safety and Health

Enclosure

cc:
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



memorandum

DATE: June 29, 2001
REPLY TO: EM-5 (Serocki:3-7999)
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 2000-2 Implementation Plan Commitment No. 27, Consolidation of the Filter Test Facility (FTF) and the Qualified Products List (QPL) Laboratory.

TO:

Steve Cary, Chairman, Executive Team, DNFSB Recommendation 2000-2

Commitment Number 27 of the implementation plan for DNFSB Recommendation 2000-2, involves a review of consolidation of a QPL laboratory with the FTF operation. This memorandum describes the Departmental decision and path forward concerning this commitment.

This action is in response to the May 1999 DNFSB Technical Report 23 - *HEPA Filters Used in the Department of Energy's Hazardous Facilities*, which raised concerns with the Department's HEPA filter program. In December 1999 the Secretary submitted a plan to the DNFSB to address those concerns. The plan tasked the Office of Environmental Management (EM) to chair a working group to explore options and make recommendations on the Department's HEPA filter quality assurance infrastructure, including the subject issue. This issue was subsequently incorporated (as Commitment 27) into the Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 2000-2.

Based on the working group's recommendation, which was reviewed and endorsed by the Chief Operating Officers (COOs) of Defense Programs (DP), Office of Science (SC), Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH), Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE), and EM, it has been determined that consolidation of the QPL laboratory and the FTF at this time is neither critical nor cost-effective. This judgement is the result of a careful study of the present status of QPL testing of DOE HEPA filters (which is currently performed by the U.S. Army at its Edgewood facility) and consideration of various options for ensuring continuation of this important quality assurance capability. EM site cleanup plans call for the FTF, located at the ETTP in Oak Ridge (OR), to be relocated due to decommissioning in approximately 2 years. Since the Department possesses serviceable QPL laboratory equipment, presently in storage at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the COOs decided to ship this equipment (DP will provide transport funding) to OR for interim storage and possible consolidation with the FTF when that facility is subsequently moved. At that time, it will be determined whether consolidation of the testing facilities is still warranted. It should be noted that maintaining the QPL equipment in on-site storage provides DOE with contingency or

back-up capability for such testing in the event the Edgewood facility becomes unavailable to DOE filter vendors. It should also be noted that, currently, there is no available private-sector facility capable of performing the DOE-required QPL testing.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this issue, please contact me at 6-5050, or Dr. Robert Goldsmith, EM-5, at 3-0221.



Michael J. Oldham
Director of Site Operations
Office of Environmental Management

cc:

R. Erickson, DP-1

C. Zamuda, FE-1

R. Knipp, NE-1

J. Turi, SC-1

M. Whitaker, S3.1