



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration

Washington, DC 20585

October 10, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I would like to invite you to participate in a Nuclear Criticality Safety Program meeting on November 22, 2002, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., and to speak briefly to the audience about the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's perspective on criticality safety. Commissioner Nils J. Diaz from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission plans to attend and will address the group about the challenges facing the criticality safety community from his perspective. I will be opening the meeting with my perspective on the Department of Energy's Nuclear Criticality Safety Program and our commitment to maintain necessary criticality safety infrastructure.

The Nuclear Criticality Safety Program holds these meetings semi-annually in conjunction with the American Nuclear Society meetings and uses them to communicate directly with the operational criticality safety community and solicit feedback on Program initiatives. These meetings also provide a forum for open discussions on selected topics of interest to the community and are well attended. A preliminary agenda for the November meeting is enclosed for your information. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, you can contact me directly or have your staff contact Mr. Mike Thompson at 301-903-5648. Mr. Thompson will provide your staff with the meeting room number when it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David H. Crandall".

David H. Crandall
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Research, Development, and Simulation
Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc (w/encl):
M. Whitaker, S-3.1
E. Beckner, NA-10
L. Brooks, NA-1



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The DOE Nuclear Criticality Safety Program
ANS Winter Meeting
Friday, November 22, 2002

Purpose

The US Department of Energy Nuclear Criticality Safety Program (NCSP) was initiated in response to DNFSB Recommendation 97-2, "Continuation of Criticality Safety." The NCSP is a comprehensive, crosscutting program that integrates the need to maintain the US criticality safety infrastructure with effective support for criticality safety programs throughout the DOE complex. During the morning session, representatives of DOE management, DNFSB staff and facility representatives, and technical program element staff will discuss the status of the NCSP. A speaker from the NRC will discuss the use of the NCSP products by NRC licensees and the potential impact of regulatory changes on the oversight of criticality safety. The afternoon session is a forum for interactions led by the DOE Criticality Safety Coordinating Team and the End-Users Group. This session is open to anyone interested in a discussion of criticality safety from the practitioners point of view. These sessions, while not part of the official ANS program, have been arranged through the courtesy of the ANS Headquarters staff. The presentations are based on the DOE NCS Program, but because of the global application of the work supported by the DOE NCSP, feedback is encouraged from anyone interested in the needs of a diverse, well-organized criticality safety program. International, NRC and licensee criticality safety personnel are encouraged to attend. Extensive audience participation is anticipated.

Program

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|------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Introduction and Program Status (Dave Crandall, Mike Thompson, Adolf Garcia) |
| 8:30 a.m. | NRC and the NCSP |
| 9:00 a.m. | DNFSB and the NCSP (TBD) |
| 9:30 a.m. | Break |
| 9:40 a.m. | DNFSB/Site Representative (Tom Burns) |
| 10:00 a.m. | Status of NCS Qualification – Lessons Learned (Jerry McKamy, Kevin Carroll, Song Huang, Bruce Wilson, Fitz Trumble) |
| 11:00 a.m. | RSICC Activities (Bernadette Kirk, Hamilton Hunter) |
| 11:20 a.m. | Nuclear Data and NDAG Acitivities (Dick McKnight) |
| 11:40 a.m. | Open forum, comments, questions and answers (Adolf Garcia) |
| Noon | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | CSCT Activities (JerryMcKamy, Bob Wilson) |
| 1:30 p.m. | End Users Group Forum (HansToffer) |
| 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:45 p.m. | End Users Group Forum Continues (HansToffer) |
| 3:30 p.m. | Open Discussion Session (Adolf Garcia) |
| 4:00 p.m. | Close Meeting |