



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

April 7, 2003

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:

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) continues to make progress in institutionalizing the periodic safety system assessments established in accordance with the Department's Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2000-2 Implementation Plan. As a follow-up to the letter transmitted to you on December 2, 2002, from Edward B. Blackwood, this letter summarizes the NNSA plans and schedules to institutionalize safety system assessments into site procedures and practices.

Enclosed with this letter is a tabulated list, site by site, of those mechanisms each site is using to perform ongoing assessments of safety systems. Our overall expectation is that each NNSA site office manager will appraise the adequacy of the contractor self-assessment processes and assessments of safety system operability and programs that support system operability. This will be reflected within the NNSA Safety Management Functions, Responsibilities and Authorities Manual.

Should you have any questions regarding this direction, please contact Mr. Jeff Kimball, 301-903-6413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everet H. Beckner".

Everet H. Beckner
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc:
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



NNSA Site Institutionalization of Safety System Assessments

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL): The assessment of safety systems has been institutionalized into existing assessment programs through revisions of the Environment, Safety & Health Manual, primarily Document 50.1, Personnel Selection, Qualification, Training, and Staffing at LLNL Nuclear Facilities, and Document 41.2, Configuration Management Program Description. Key elements consistent with the Model Assessment Criteria and Guidelines for Performing Phase II Assessments of Safety Systems at Defense Nuclear Facilities (Phase II CRAD) have been defined including: system operational status; key system parameters; system performance; system material condition; and implementation and effectiveness of the configuration management program. Complete.

Los Alamos National Laboratory: Phase II CRAD will be incorporated into Administrative Control Procedure titled "Engineering Self-Assessment Process." This procedure is part of the Integrated Facility Management Program. This procedure is scheduled to be approved for implementation by June 30, 2003.

Nevada: Two procedures are being developed for institutionalizing the assessment of safety systems: Structural Integrity Program and System Performance Monitoring. The Phase II CRAD will be used in conjunction with other consensus standards to meet assessment requirements. These procedures are scheduled for completion by May 2003.

Pantex: Plant Standard STD-5100, Maintenance Management, is being revised to require continuing assessment of safety systems. The BWXT Pantex September 2002 project plan is being expanded significantly as a revision, which will serve as the initial guidance for the vertical slice baseline assessments previously committed for 11 safety systems during fiscal year 2003. This guidance incorporates the Phase II CRAD. Completion date for these documentation changes is April 2003.

Sandia National Laboratory: Technical Area (TA)-V Management Assessment Matrix, written in accordance with TA-V Quality Management System Procedure RREP 2-5 will be used to schedule assessment of safety systems. The TA-V process is implemented through Administrative Instruction "TA-V Vital Safety System Assessments, TA-V-VSSA." The Phase II CRAD was incorporated into the TA-V-VSSA instruction. Complete.

NNSA Site Institutionalization of Safety System Assessments

Savannah River Site (Tritium): The criteria for Phase II Assessments have been included in the Standards and Criteria Document, SCD-4. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company Facility Evaluation Board and Self-Assessment Programs use SCD-4 as their criteria base. Complete.

Y12: The approach to institutionalize the assessment of safety systems includes a combination of efforts in the Management Assessment program, the Independent Assessment programs, the Safety System material condition walkdown programs, and the system engineering function. Changes to documents include: Procedure Y15-902, Management Assessment, has been revised to require appropriate assessments of safety systems; Procedure Y15-903, Independent Assessments was reviewed to ensure proper input from managers of safety systems; Engineering and Technology document Y/EN-7581, Criteria for Walkdowns to Assess Material Condition and Aging Issues Associated with Safety Systems was issued in December, 2002, and includes Criteria from the Phase II CRAD; and The Training and Qualification Program Description for Y-12 System Engineers was reviewed to ensure functions are consistent with the Phase II CRAD. Complete.