



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

January 28, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the "Quarterly Report for the Implementation Plan Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 98-2, Safety Management at the Pantex Plant," for the period October 1 through December 31, 2004.


During the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 the National Nuclear Security Administration made progress toward successful execution of all other aspects of the Seamless Safety for the 21st Century (SS-21) process. This report documents the status as of December 31, 2004. However, per your letter of December 14, 2004, we will also be providing monthly status briefings. Regarding first quarter FY 2005 activities, we initiated discussions with the Pantex Site Office and the BWXT/Pantex Plant to track and validate technical safety requirement controls. A technical business practice was drafted that addresses a process for interaction between the design agencies and the BWXT/Pantex Plant for hazard analysis for weapon response. As of December 31, 2004, the plan was to receive a final Safety Evaluation Report for the B83 Hazard Analysis Report by January 14, 2005. In January 2005, the BWXT/Pantex Plant stated that near-term budget issues are impacting all SS-21 programs including the B83 in various ways.

Twenty-three out of twenty-seven commitments in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 98-2 have been delivered and four remain outstanding. For the next quarterly



report, we expect to provide formal documentation regarding budget and tooling impacts at the BWXT/Pantex Plant. If you have questions, please call me at 202-586-4879 or have your staff contact Mr. Michael Brown at 505-845-6258.

Sincerely,



M. Schoenbauer
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and
Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

K. Fortenberry, DNFSB

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Quarterly Report For the Implementation Plan

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Recommendation 98-2**

Safety Management at the Pantex Plant

October 1 through December 31, 2004

*Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and Stockpile Operations
National Nuclear Security Administration
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1.0 Introduction

On September 25, 2000, the Secretary of Energy approved Revision 1 to the Recommendation 98-2 Implementation Plan (IP) and provided a copy to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Board (DNFSB). Change 1, to Revision 1, was provided on October 28, 2002, and was accepted by the DNFSB on December 19, 2002. The following report for the period October 1 through December 31, 2004, tracks progress towards completing the commitments outlined in the 98-2 IP, Revision 1, as modified and expanded through Change 1 to Revision 1.

2.0 General Progress

From October 1 through December 31, 2004, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) continued to make progress toward completion of the outstanding recommendation commitments.

3.0 Task Area Status

The status of open commitments is provided below for each task area of the 98-2 IP, Revision 1.

4.0 Safety Issue Resolution

4.1 Define Scope of Work

There are no outstanding commitments within this task area.

4.2 Analyze Hazards

Commitment 4.2.2 - The purpose of this commitment is to create and publish a technical business practice (TBP) that includes guidance on expectations for the evaluation and documentation of weapon response to potential accident environments and stimuli.

Deliverable: A published TBP.

The Standing Management Team derived an initial draft of the TBP on December 2, 2004. The final review will occur in February 2005. The TBP will provide a consistent process for interaction among the national laboratories and the BWXT/Pantex Plant to develop hazard analysis associated with weapon response and associated controls. Internal processes for the evaluation and documentation of weapon response are unique to each site and include existing, and in some cases, new technical information which follows the quality requirements identified in Title 10, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 830.

4.3 Develop and Implement Controls

Commitment 4.3.4 - The purpose of this commitment is to validate implementation of the improved site-wide technical safety requirement (TSR) controls for onsite transportation of nuclear explosives.

Deliverable: The Department of Energy Readiness Assessment (RA) Report.

The total number of TSRs open is 252. Recommendation 98-2 originally referred to 40 TSR controls that are related to onsite transportation of nuclear explosives. The following is the status to date for the 40 TSR controls:

- Total number of TSRs related to onsite transportation of nuclear explosives including nuclear explosive like assemblies (NELAs): 40
- Total number of TSRs implemented for onsite transportation of nuclear explosives and NELAs: 29
- Total number of TSRs effective (not yet verified by PXSO) for onsite transportation of nuclear explosives and NELAs: 19
- Total number of TSRs verified for onsite transportation of nuclear explosives and NELAs: 19

The NNSA is planning to complete and issue the final RA report 90 working days after the BWXT/Pantex Plant General Manager declares readiness. This declaration of readiness will be issued upon the completion of the final contractor readiness assessment (CRA) scheduled for September 2005 and the resolution and/or corrective action plans (post-start findings only) for any identified CRA findings. Reference Official Use Only, "TSR Integrated Implementation Plan, Revision 1," dated August 18, 2003, submitted to the DNFSB on September 30, 2003, for CRA schedules.

4.4 Perform Work

Commitment 4.4.6 - The purpose of this commitment is to authorize startup of the B83 SS-21 process.

Deliverable: The B83 SS-21 startup authorization.

The readiness verification occurred with seven findings being identified. A Hazard Analysis Report modification addressing the pre-start findings was submitted to the Pantex Site Office (PXSO). The PXSO estimates release of the final Safety Evaluation Report on January 24, 2005. The BWXT/Pantex Plant is planning for the CRA to follow the nuclear explosive safety study (NESS). The BWXT/Pantex Plant plans to complete the Satellite Facilities CRA before the NESS demonstrations in order to shorten the duration of the overall CRA. The current B83 SS-21 estimated completion is targeted for April 2005 pending assessments of impacts associated with the fastener shutdown and recent budget issues.

Commitment 4.5.1 – The NNSA will complete a comprehensive assessment of the actions taken in response to Recommendation 98-2.

Deliverable: Final assessment report.

The final assessment report will be completed after the NNSA closure of the 98-2 commitments summarized in Sections 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4 above.