



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 18, 2005

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On October 3, 2002, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) issued Recommendation 2002-2, "Weapons Laboratory Support of the Defense Nuclear Complex," to the Department of Energy (Department). Recommendation 2002-2 stated a concern that the number of nuclear weapon design experts had declined and the National Laboratories' support to nuclear weapon activity had diminished. The DNFSB also stated concerns with the laboratories not having a senior, single point of contact who is empowered to integrate, coordinate, answer questions, and provide technical support on behalf of each respective laboratory to the rest of the nuclear weapons complexes (NWC).

The Department submitted the Recommendation 2002-2 Implementation Plan to the DNFSB on June 4, 2003. The Plan addressed the Department's agreement to reemphasize the policy that the nuclear weapons program is the top priority among all activities at the National Weapons Laboratories (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories) and to identify a single point of contact at each laboratory for NWC matters and their responsibilities. The commitments with their dates of completion are identified in the enclosure.

The Department will ensure continued attention is paid to the processes that have been established based on the recommendation and requests formal closure of Recommendation 2002-2.

If you have questions, please contact me or Mr. Marty Schoenbauer, Acting Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, at (202)-586-2179.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman".

Samuel W. Bodman

Enclosure

cc: R. Tontodonato, DNFSB
M. Whitaker, DR-1



Recommendation 2002-2 Implementation Plan
Commitments and Completion Information

Commitment 4.1.1: Issue a Secretarial memorandum to the Department to reemphasize the nuclear weapons program is the Department of Energy's (DOE) top priority for the laboratories in supporting the nuclear weapons complex.

Completion: On July 8, 2003, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) transmitted to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) the Secretarial memorandum, "Priority of the Nuclear Weapons Program at the National Laboratories."

Commitment 4.1.2: Replace obsolete DOE Order 5600.1, "Management of the Department of Energy Weapon Program and Weapon Complex," with a policy consistent with the Secretary's emphasis on laboratory support of the nuclear weapons program and reflecting current functions and responsibilities.

Completion: A draft of DOE Order 452.X was reviewed and concurred on by the DNFSB in April 2005. This order was issued as the DOE Order 452.3, "Management of the Department of Energy Nuclear Weapons Complex," on June 8, 2005.

Commitment 4.2.1: Issue a letter from the NNSA to the laboratories directing them to review and revise (if necessary) existing processes for the selection, training and mentoring, and succession planning for weapons points of contact.

Completion: On August 11, 2003, the NNSA forwarded to the DNFSB the Administrator's (NA-1) letter to the laboratories addressing these matters.

Commitment 4.2.2: Review and revise the Engineering Procedure (EP) 401104 to ensure:

- a single point of contact is named for each weapon system;
- a single point of contact is named for those issues that span multiple weapon systems; and
- weapons point of contact roles and responsibilities are updated (generic).

Completion: On August 29, 2003, the NNSA submitted the revised EP401104 procedure to the DNFSB.

Commitment 4.2.3: Issue an Information Engineering Release (IER) listing each point of contact at each laboratory to the end users in the nuclear weapons complex.

Completion: On September 30, 2003, the NNSA forwarded to the DNFSB the IERs from the laboratories that listed the requisite contacts.

Commitment 4.2.4: Obtain response letters from the laboratories to the NNSA certifying that processes exist for the selection, training and mentoring, and succession planning for weapons points of contact and describe plans for improvement, if necessary.

Completion: On November 21, 2003, the NNSA forwarded to the DNFSB the response letters from the laboratories that addressed these matters. The DNFSB was briefed on this commitment in January 2004.

Commitment 4.2.5: Deliver a combined Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs (NA-10)/laboratory Associate Director (AD)/Vice President (VP) briefing to the DNFSB.

Completion: The combined briefing to the DNFSB occurred on February 2, 2004.

Commitment 4.3.1: Issue a NNSA letter to the laboratories directing them to:

- provide a document describing weapons points of contact roles and responsibilities;
- describe the organization/system for providing point of contact resources; and
- describe the process to communicate point of contact roles and responsibilities within the laboratory (external to laboratories through EP401104).

Completion: On August 11, 2003, the NNSA forwarded to the DNFSB the NA-1 letter to the laboratories that addressed these matters.

Commitment 4.3.2: Obtain responses from the laboratories to NNSA transmitting a description of weapons point of contact roles, responsibilities, and authorities; and if necessary, plans for improvement.

Completion: The NNSA transmitted the final closure package for this commitment to the DNFSB on March 18, 2005, that addressed this information.

Commitment 4.3.3: Deliver a combined NA-10/laboratory AD/VP briefing to the DNFSB.

Completion: The Sandia National Laboratories and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory personnel briefed the DNFSB in February 2004. The Los Alamos National Laboratory personnel briefed the DNFSB on January 28, 2005. The NNSA reported this commitment completed in its March 18, 2005, letter to the DNFSB.

Commitment 4.4.1: Issue a NNSA contracting officer representative letter to the NNSA sites with a laboratory.

Completion: On September 2, 2004, NNSA submitted to the DNFSB the final closure package for this commitment.

Commitment 4.4.2: Revise the Standing Management Team Charter to reflect new contractual requirements.

Completion: On June 30, 2003, the NNSA transmitted to the DNFSB a revision to the Development and Production Manual, Chapter 11.1, which reflects the new requirements.

Commitment 4.4.3: Deliver a NA-10 briefing to the DNFSB on NNSA roles, responsibilities, and processes for ensuring safe nuclear explosive operations.

Completion: The NNSA briefed the DNFSB on August 26, 2003, on these matters.