



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 15, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to report on the status of actions contained in the Department of Energy's (DOE), *Plan of Action to Address Increased HEPA Filter Rejection Rates* dated July 23, 2008. This plan was provided to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) in response to the DNFSB's letter dated March 17, 2008 regarding the increased contribution of manufacturing defects to the rejection rate of filters tested at the Filter Test Facility (FTF).

At the time the plan was developed, the Office of Health, Safety and Security convened a working team that progressively implemented the various actions in the plan as summarized in the enclosed table. These included upgrading the FTF reporting requirements; gathering information on the quality control and testing performed by the filter media and filter manufacturers; reviewing the major filter manufacturer's root cause analysis of defects and corrective actions; visiting its manufacturing facility and evaluating the quality assurance and quality control practices; and monitoring FTF inspection and testing results for over one year to determine the efficacy of filter manufacturer's corrective actions.

Copies of the reports documenting completion of each action, which were previously provided to the DNFSB staff, are enclosed. As a result of the DOE Plan of Action, the rejection rate has reduced from its Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 peak of 21.5 percent to approximately 6.6 percent for the first six months of FY 2010. DOE will continue to monitor the performance of High Efficiency Particulate Air filter manufacturers regarding the rejection rate of filters from FTF inspection and testing.

Questions may be directed to me or Andrew Lawrence Director, Office of Nuclear Safety, Quality Assurance, and Environment at (202) 586-5680, or your staff may contact Subir Sen, Office of Quality Assurance Policy and Assistance, at (301) 903-6571.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Podonsky".

Glenn S. Podonsky  
Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer  
Office of Health, Safety and Security



Enclosures

1. Summary of the Plan of Action to Address Increased HEPA Filter Rejection Rate
2. July 24, 2008, Safety Advisory on HEPA Filter Rejection Rates, Action 1.5
3. August 27, 2008, Quality Assurance Points-of-Contact for High Efficiency Particulate Air Filter Information, Action 1.3
4. July 10, 2009, Plan of Action to Address Increased HEPA Filter Rejection Rate, Action 1.4, 3.1 and 3.2
5. April 16, 2010, Plan of Action to Address Increased HEPA Filter Rejection Rate, Action 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2

cc: Mari-Jo Campagnone, HS-1.1

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