The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

May 26, 2006

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Energy has completed all commitments in its Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2000-2, *Configuration Management – Vital Safety Systems.*

The Department has institutionalized the actions taken in response to this recommendation through ongoing identification, assessment and configuration management of safety systems, maintenance of contractor system engineer and Federal safety system oversight staff, clear assignment of responsibilities in departmental directives, and issuance of a revision to the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook. The Department has delivered assessment reports, correspondence, and documents defined in the implementation plan over the course of its completion.

In your letter of March 27, 2006, you asked for additional information within 60 days to validate certain aspects of vital safety system activities prior to closure of the recommendation. The information enclosed should satisfy your recent request.

In addition, I would note that the Office of Independent Oversight recently issued Status Reports entitled "Essential System Functionality" and "Safety System Engineer and Oversight Programs," both of which address departmental successes and suggested improvements in response to Board recommendation 2000-2. As part of the feedback and continuous improvement principles in our Integrated Safety Management System, we will consider these reports and use them in charting further refinements to programs that address vital safety systems at defense nuclear facilities. Consequently, I believe we have satisfied the intent of this Recommendation.

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Based on completion of the implementation plan and delivery of the enclosed information, I propose closure of Recommendation 2000-2.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman

Enclosures

cc: Mark B. Whitaker, DR-1