



**Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585**

April 22, 2009

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter reports on the implementation of the Department of Energy (DOE) Operating Experience (OPEX) program for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as specified in Commitment 19b of the DOE's Implementation Plan, Revision 2, October 12, 2006, for Recommendation 2004-1, *Oversight of Complex, High-Hazard Nuclear Operations*.

In February 2008, NNSA issued a revision to the Safety Management Functions, Responsibilities and Authorities Manual to clearly define NNSA's organizational responsibilities for DOE Order 210.2, *DOE Corporate Operating Experience Program*. Oversight of the corporate OPEX program is the responsibility of the Senior Advisor for Environment, Safety and Health, NA-3.6.

In 2008, NNSA continued to strengthen its corporate OPEX program as outlined in DOE Order 210.2. This included continued integration of work performed in several areas of implementation including within the Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Core Function "Feedback and Improvement" and close collaboration with the Office of Health, Safety and Security and other program offices in the program implementation.

All seven of NNSA's nuclear sites have been reviewed by the Office of the Chief Defense Nuclear Safety. The reviews of the operating experience/Lessons Learned program implementation have shown that the NNSA site contractors have implemented programs, with some identified areas of improvement. OPEX program implementation for the Federal elements (Headquarters, Site Offices) were in different stages of implementation, all with corrective actions underway in 2008. Enclosed is a status report of the various efforts taken by NNSA during 2008 to improve implementation of the OPEX program.

If you have questions, please contact me at (202) 586-5555 or Frank Russo at (202) 586-8395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.P. D'Agostino". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas P. D'Agostino  
Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Andy Wallo, HS-20