



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 16, 2009

The Honorable John E. Mansfield
Vice Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As committed to in the Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, the Department of Energy (DOE) has developed a DOE-wide plan and schedule for implementing DOE Manual 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging Manual*, at its defense nuclear facilities. The overall approach used in the enclosed schedule is based upon repackaging highest risk material as soon as practicable and then repackaging lower risk material when it is being accessed for normal operational purposes rather than via a dedicated repackaging campaign. This repackaging strategy will reduce worker safety risk from the storage of nuclear material in older less robust containers while minimizing the radiation exposure and cost associated with the repackaging effort.

The Department recognizes the importance of improving the protection of its workers from the risk of handling nuclear material by repacking it into robust containers specifically designed to store the material and has made good progress in repackaging the highest risk material, which is predominantly located at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. We plan to brief you on our progress to meet the enclosed schedule and to annually update the schedule to reflect progress made and any changes in our repackaging plans.

Please contact me or Dr. James O'Brien, the Responsible Manager for Recommendation 2005-1 Implementation Plan, at (301) 903-1408, if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

Enclosure

