



## Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office  
1955 Fremont Avenue  
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

June 1, 2009

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

**SUBJECT:** Response to Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Concerns on Work Planning and Control Implementation and Oversight at the Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office (EM-NSPD-09-045)

**REFERENCE:** A. J. Eggenberger, Chairman, DNFSB, letter to Dr. Inés R. Triay, EM-1 (Acting), dated March 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Eggenberger:

The referenced letter forwarded an evaluation performed by your staff of work planning and control processes and implementation by the CH2M♦WG Idaho, LLC (CWI), and the Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) oversight of the same. Dr. Triay asked me to respond to that letter for the Department. Both CWI and DOE-ID understand your staff's concerns and have taken deliberate action to address the issues identified in the referenced letter.

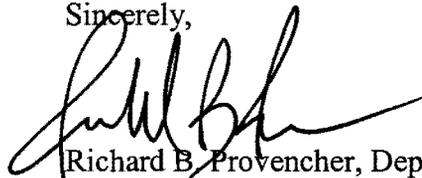
In order to improve CWI's work planning and control (WPC) process, CWI has developed a Work Control Improvement Plan to comprehensively address issues identified by multiple reviews of their WPC process. In addition to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) staff review conducted in December 2008, CWI also chartered a corporate review of work control in March 2009 to review existing processes and recent events, and provide recommendations for improvement. The results of these two reviews, along with an EM-62 review (March 2009) and a root cause analysis report, provided the basis for development of the comprehensive Work Control Improvement Plan. This plan directly addresses the WPC issues identified by your staff (reference).

Although your staff determined that DOE-ID ICP Facility Representatives were actively providing daily oversight of work activities in the field, they determined that WPC programmatic oversight was lacking. I have reviewed all of the issues identified by your staff regarding DOE-ID oversight of contractor WPC processes, and have developed several actions that will significantly improve DOE-ID programmatic oversight of those processes. Foremost in these actions is to immediately begin the hiring process for a dedicated subject matter expert (SME) to provide programmatic oversight of ICP contractor WPC processes.

Further, the Office of Environmental Management (EM) anticipates that it will utilize this dedicated SME as a resource to provide mentoring and review of work planning and control programmatic oversight at other EM sites.

The enclosure to this letter provides an overview of the actions planned or taken in response to the WPC issues identified by your staff. I am confident that these actions will strengthen the work planning and control program at the ICP. These actions were discussed with your staff on May 14, 2009, and I am scheduled to brief you as well in early June 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard B. Provencher', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Richard B. Provencher, Deputy Manager  
Idaho Cleanup Project

Enclosure