



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 6, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a status of the commitments on Software Quality Assurance (QA) and QA and to transmit the revised Office of Environmental Management (EM) Headquarters (HQ) Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities (FRA) document (enclosed). This document defines safety management responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities within EM HQ for implementing and assuring safe conduct of EM work activities, including Departmental QA requirements.

The revision to the FRA addresses the EM HQ portions of the three existing commitments contained in the October 2002 Quality Assurance Improvement Plan (QAIP) and the Implementation Plan (IP) for Recommendation 2002-1 as follows:

- (1) QAIP Action 1.4.3: Update the EM HQ and Field FRA documents to incorporate Federal responsibilities defined in the QA Rule and Order, including the responsibilities for overseeing the contractor's QA program.
- (2) QAIP Action 3.4: EM will promulgate processes and procedures for FRA and QA document requirements.
- (3) IP 2002-1 Commitment 4.1.6: Revise the HQ and Field Element FRA documents to incorporate Federal responsibilities and authorities for Software QA.

The EM Field Element FRAs are being updated and will follow within 2 months. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-0738 or Patrice M. Bubar, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integrated Safety Management and Operations Oversight, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

Inés Triay
Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: M. Whitaker, DR/DOE



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