



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

August 8, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a July 9, 2003, letter, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) forwarded its concerns related to assessments of training programs required by Department of Energy (DOE) O 5480.20A, *Personnel Selection, Qualification, and Training Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities*, in that the required assessments were not being performed with the scope or periodicity required by the DOE Order. The Board requested a report within 30 days providing the status and corrective actions, as necessary, of performing these assessments at all National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sites.

NNSA acknowledges and concurs with the Board's concern. Of the seven sites with nuclear facilities, Y-12 and Savannah River Site Offices reported that periodic reviews of training and qualification programs were being conducted in accordance with DOE Order 5480.20A requirements. However, several Site Offices reported reliance on a combination of facility readiness reviews, Facility Representative reviews, and individual functional program assessments to determine the adequacy of training and qualification programs. Some Site Offices noted local resource issues and a desire to leverage Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and other training resources from the NNSA Service Center to provide assessment support for required DOE Order 5480.20A reviews.

Additionally, some Site Offices are still evaluating the scope and periodicity of previous assessments and their plans to correct inadequacies in their previous training assessments.

Additional time is necessary in order to provide clear and complete responses to the Board's requested information. Therefore, an additional 30 days is requested to respond to this request.



If there are questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Xavier Ascanio of my staff at 301-903-3757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Beckner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long horizontal stroke.

Everet H. Beckner  
Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

cc:

M. Whitaker, DR-1