



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 27, 2000

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

Dear Mr. ^{John} Chairman:

With this letter I am pleased to report completion of several commitments found in the Department's 2000-1 Implementation Plan. The closure packages for these commitments are enclosed. The following commitments are proposed for closure:

Los Alamos:

502) Develop quantifiable risk associated with each item and prioritization of items for stabilization and/or processing - July 31, 2000

503) Begin applying Plutonium Disposition Methodology to residues based on risk prioritization - July 31, 2000

504) Establish a disposition plan and schedule for unsheltered containers - July 31, 2000

Rocky Flats:

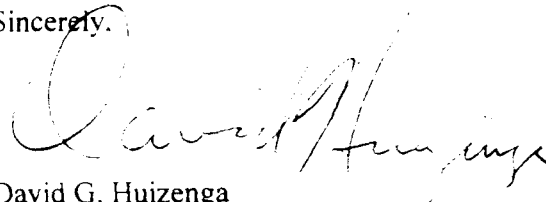
301) Drain eight additional actinide systems in B771 by September 2000.

I would also like to formally notify you of one commitment from our 2000-1 Implementation Plan which has been delayed. Consistent with the briefings you received from the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation on July 19, 2000, completion of the commitment, "*Complete DOE/TVA interagency agreement for Off-Specification Fuel program by August 2000.*" has been delayed until October 2000.



We continue to closely track progress on all Recommendation 2000-1 commitments and will keep you and your staff apprised of our progress. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff call me on (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,



David G. Huizenga
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Integration and Disposition
Office of Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc w/ enclosure:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1
S. Pierpoint, DP-20
D. Tousley, NN-61
E. Huang, EM-33

memorandum

DATE: SEP 01 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF DP-223 (S. Pierpoint, 301-903-9601)

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF INTERIM MILESTONES AT THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY IN REFERENCE TO DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION 94-1

TO: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integration and Disposition, EM -20

On May 31, 2000, Los Alamos National Laboratory committed to three interim milestones in the Implementation Plan for the DNFSB Recommendations 94-1 and 00-1. The following is offered in response to these milestones that were due on July 31, 2000.

- 1) *Develop a quantifiable risk associated with each item and prioritize items for stabilization.*

LANL has developed a methodology to prioritize processing and stabilization of legacy and newly generated excess materials. This methodology uses age of the item as the primary factor in assessing risk followed by material matrix. The attached matrix (Table 1) presents the risk ranking based on age and matrix of the material. Other factors such as process efficiencies (including number of items in a batch), packaging configuration and worker risk also will be considered in determining individual item or batch priorities.

Matrix effects may supersede age if the specific matrix is known to develop storage problems or is a "high risk" matrix. Packaging configuration effects will be considered should visual observations or surveillance indicates a problem with a specific packaging container or procedure. Finally, in order to expedite processing as many items as possible, some items may be batched or grouped in a manner that enhances equipment efficiency and performance, minimizes personnel exposure and addresses immediate storage space considerations. The schedule for stabilization will be provided in the Implementation Plan due to the Board on October 31, 2000.

- 2) *Begin applying Plutonium Disposition Methodology to residues based on risk prioritization.*


LANL is evaluating items using the attractiveness level E criteria. Specific matrices have been approved for level E discard. Through April 2000, 122 items have been certified as waste and have been discarded. An additional 93 items are being evaluated for discard. Table 2 shows the items discarded and those being evaluated for discard.

LANL is also pursuing the Rocky Flats exemption approach and estimates approximately 30% of the total excess items in the 10% assay category, or attractiveness level D, could be discarded

3) *Establish a disposition plan and schedule for unsheltered containers.*

LANL has evaluated alternatives for sheltering the containers to allow for real-time monitoring for leaks. The immediate plan is to house these containers in a new temporary building in FY 01 which will have air sampling and provide protection until the containers can be processed. Each container will be processed and emptied in PF-4 and contents will be packaged consistent with the TA-55 vault storage requirements. The 30-70 newly produced items will be evaluated for either direct discard or additional processing. The schedule for emptying these containers will be provided in the IP.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff contact Sujita Pierpoint at (301) 903-9601.


for John W. Newton
Director, Materials Management Division
Office of Nuclear Weapons Stockpile
Defense Programs

Attachment

cc w/attachment:

J. Arango, EH-9

C. Sink, EM-21

N. Khalil, NPD-AL

W. Scott Gibbs, LANL

R. Erickson, LANL

J. Williams, LANL

TABLE 1
Age Profile of Excess Plutonium at TA-55

Rank	LANL IDES	Description	Total Item Count	Item Count																					
				1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
37	R10	CaO	1																						
38	C28	Fluoride	1																						
39	M32	Fluoride	1																						
40	N27	Fire Brick	1																						
	C21	Dioxide	176	2	1	4	4			22	17	9	7	7	36	10		15	30						
	C86	Trioxide	2	2																					
	C88	U3O8	11	4			1			1	1	1	2				1								
	R78	Sweepings/Screenings	78							1															
	N55	Nonactinide Metal	1																						
	R71	Misc. Salt	4																						
	M44	Unalloyed Metal	55	6	5	9	2	6	6	2		2	2	2	2	3									
	R47	Incinerator Ash	1																						
	M74	Alloyed Metal	40	1		2	12	4	7	8	2	1	3												
	N67	Plastic/Kim Wipes	1																						
	R41	Hydroxide Precipitate	1																						
	C80	Tetrafluoride	1																						
	R73	Silica	2				1																		
	C52	Nitrate	2					2																	
	L52	Nitrate Solution	2																						
	L90	Water	1																						
	N69	Resin	1																						
		TOTAL	3943	143	70	103	106	179	245	208	224	222	187	184	188	88	116	169	205	83	122	321	327	316	138

Table 2: Items Discarded and Being Evaluated for Discard

LANL IDES	Description	Items Discarded	Items being Evaluated for discard
N31	Graphite	12	
N50	MgO	52	9
N67	Plastics/Kim Wipes	8	6
R26	Filter Residues	10	19
R41	Hydroxide Cakes		1
R42	DOR Salts	9	6
R47	Incinerator Ash	2	
R65	ER Salts	19	13
R71	Miscellaneous Salts	7	
R83	MSE Salts	3	
N29	Glass		2
N33	Heating Mantles		3
N35	HEPA Filters		11
N48	Leaded Gloves		3
N55	Non-actinide Metal		18
N69	Resin		2
TOTAL		122	93

ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE WEEKLY REPORT

June 21, 2000

I. Schedule

- 6/23 Barbara Mazurowski will be on travel status until July 1. Paul Golan will be acting.
- 7/6 Westminster, CO. Barbara Mazurowski will participate in the Citizens Advisory Board July meeting, address the meeting and take questions.
- 7/10 Broomfield, CO. Barbara Mazurowski will participate in the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments' July meeting, address the meeting and take questions.

II. Key Departmental News

Emergency Exercise - Ready 2000 (Rocky Flats): Rocky Flats and the State of Colorado will conduct an emergency preparedness exercise on June 21. This year's annual exercise, Ready 2000, involves a simulated radiological incident within the site boundaries. The site has drafted a news release and will issue prior to the exercise.
DOE Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

III. Work on Secretarial Initiatives

Accelerated Cleanup

Building 771 Commitment Met (Rocky Flats): On June 16, Building 771 completed the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board commitment to drain eight actinide systems by September 30 by draining System 34.
DOE Contact: James Brothers, 303-966-7756

Shipment of Transuranic/Transuranic Mixed (TRU/TRUM) Wastes to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit (Rocky Flats): Rocky Flats made one shipment to WIPP the week of June 12 due to network problems and forklift incidents in Building 664. One shipment is planned to go out the week of June 19.
DOE Contact: Lam Xuan, 303-966-3135

IV. Press Inquiries

NBC News Inquiry on Cellular Phone Usage (Rocky Flats): The RFFO is gathering information to support a headquarters public affairs request from NBC News. NBC News is working on a piece on cellular phone usage by government employees and contractors for a potential investigative story. Rocky Flats has specifically been called out to respond to the request. Unknown when story will run.

DOE Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

Westword Magazine (Rocky Flats): A reporter is continuing to gather information for a story on Rocky Flats and is requesting to interview Rowland Felt, formerly with DOE EII, who completed a review and analysis of the fires at Rocky Flats. Followup calls and interviews are anticipated

DOE Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

Denver Post Story (Rocky Flats): The *Denver Post* is expected to run a full page story in the Sunday edition, June 25, on the nuts and bolts of taking down a former nuclear weapons site.

DOE Contact: Karen Lutz, 303-966-4546

V. FOIA Requests

VI. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

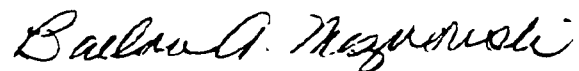
Office of Inspector General Report on Non-Nuclear Weapons Parts (Rocky Flats): Release of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Final Report on Weapons Parts is imminent. The Site has provided written comments to OIG on the draft report. The report is critical of past property management practices.

Media Coverage: Anticipated

DOE Contact: Richard Anzures, 303-966-9706

VII. Climate Change

VIII. Disaster Assistance



Barbara A. Mazurowski
Manager