



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 6, 2005

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

Dear Dr. Eggenberger:

The Department of Energy acknowledges receipt of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, issued on March 10, 2005.

In response to Recommendations 94-1, 97-1, and 2000-1, the Department has made significant progress towards stabilizing and safely storing its nuclear materials, primarily plutonium metal and oxide materials and Uranium-233. For example, all of the commitments included in the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 97-1, *Safe Storage of Uranium-233*, and over two-thirds of the commitments in the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2000-1, *Stabilization and Storage of Nuclear Materials*, have been completed. Your Recommendation 2005-1 addresses storage requirements for other categories of nuclear materials that are beyond the scope of the Implementation Plans for Recommendations 94-1, 97-1, and 2000-1.

The Department accepts Recommendation 2005-1, and will develop an Implementation Plan to identify and issue additional nuclear material packaging and storage requirements. The Plan will address the following activities.

- Specify the nuclear materials to which new requirements will apply. This effort will include conducting a survey of the sites currently storing nuclear materials.
- Develop the technical criteria and requirements that must be satisfied to ensure safe storage and handling of these materials, including the requirements for surveillance of packaged materials when appropriate.
- Develop a prioritized plan for implementing the above criteria and requirements based on the hazards and risks posed by the existing packaging configurations and conditions.



I have assigned Mr. Richard Stark, Director, Office of Facilities Operations Support, as the Department's responsible manager for developing the Implementation Plan. He can be reached on (301) 903-4407.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning and a distinct "B" at the end.

Samuel W. Bodman