



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 16, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

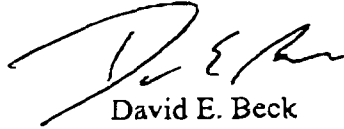
Defense Programs has taken steps to reduce demand on Department of Energy and contractor technical personnel at the Pantex Plant. This was accomplished by means of the following schedule realignments:

- Nuclear explosive safety study completion dates have been extended for the W88 (April 30, 2000) and W76 Disassembly and Inspection (June 30, 2000).
- The Basis for Interim Operations (BIO)/Technical Safety Requirements (TSR)/Integrated Safety Management Verification (ISMV) schedules were reprioritized around implementing the Lightning Protection BIO by April 1, 2000. We will combine the implementation of controls associated with the current Fire Justification for Continued Operation and W62 transportation controls into the site-wide TSRs and extend the implementation period of the site-wide TSRs to March 13, 2000.
- ISMV Phase 1 validation has been extended to April 30, 2000.

These schedule adjustments address the Pantex concerns the Board raised in their November 22, 1999, letter and also will not adversely affect our Department of Defense deliverables. A copy of the direction provided to the Mason and Hanger Corporation by the Albuquerque Operations Office is enclosed.

In that letter, the Board also raised concerns regarding the resumption of the complete agenda of operations at the Y-12 Plant. The Department is developing options for addressing the Board's concerns about progress at the Y-12 Plant. We will keep the Board advised of the progress on these issues at the Y-12 Plant.

Sincerely,



David E. Beck
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Military Application and
Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc:

R. Glass, AL
S. Goodrum, AL
K. Boardman, AL
M. Baca, AL
R. Levine, AL
D. Rose, AL
L. Kirkman, AL
D. Glenn, AAO
L. Dever, OR

memorandum

DATE November 30, 1999

REPLY TO

ATTN OF ONDP

SUBJECT: W76 SS-21 Project Plan & W88 Explosive Operations Requirements Project Plan Revisions

TO: W. A. Weinreich, Mason & Hanger Corporation
John Bernier, Amarillo Area Office

Based on conversations held with the Office of National Defense Programs, Amarillo Area Office, and DP-20 during the recent DOE Round Robin at Pantex along with follow-on conversations held November 24, 1999 with DP-20, a decision was made to extend the startup dates for the W76 and W88.

This decision was made to better align DOE and Mason & Hanger Corporation (MHC) cross-cutting resources necessary to support multiple readiness assessment activities occurring in the March 2000 time frame along with prioritizing safety activities which would benefit multiple weapon programs. The W88 startup date has been extended two months to April 30, 2000 and the W76 has been extended three months to June 30, 2000. The Weapon Programs Division (WPD) staff has confirmed these changes will not adversely affect our DoD deliverables.

MHC in coordination with the W76 and W88 Project Teams should revise their Project Plans to reflect the new start dates. The purpose of these agreed upon extensions is to allow sufficient time for Authorization Basis revisions, personnel training, conduct of readiness activities, and adequate time to address findings from the NESS and Readiness Assessments.

In addition, changes to the Integrated Weapon Activity Plan (IWAP) associated with Basis for Interim Operations/Technical Safety Requirements/Integrated Safety Management Verification (BIO/TSR/ISMV) actions were also discussed to prioritize implementation of safety improvements across all nuclear explosive operations in the areas of lightning, fire protection, and transportation. The scope, schedule, and resources associated with successfully implementing the Lightning Protection BIO by April 1, 2000 is the main driver in re-prioritizing the current BIO/TSR/ISMV schedules. It was agreed to combine the implementation of controls associated with the current Fire Justification for Continued Operation and W62 transportation controls into the site-wide TSRs and extend the implementation period of the site-wide TSRs by 60 days.

The ISMV Phase 1 validation has been extended approximately 75 days to allow sufficient time for complete incorporation of the new Development & Production Manual changes, Technical Business Practices, and Hazards Assessment Report/Activity Based Control Document Methodology, Form, and Content Guides. The Fire Protection BIO was extended

to better coincide with the ongoing fire protection upgrade program along with the site's plan to reactivate the UV activation of existing fire deluge systems.

The revised project plans and IWAP should be presented to the Standing Management Team for formal approval when complete. If you have any questions, please call me at 845-5050 or Karen Boardman at 845-6045.

Signed

S. C. Hafner for

William S. Goodrum
Assistant Manager for
National Defense Programs

cc:

Dave Beck, DP-20, HQ
Dan Rhoades, DP-24, HQ
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