



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C.20585

February 5,2010

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

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

On September 23,2002, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) issued Recommendation 2002-1, *Quality Assurance for Safety Related Software*, to the Department of Energy (Department). Recommendation 2002-1 stated a concern regarding the lack of an integrated and effective quality assurance program for safety software and identified several actions that the Department needed to take to improve safety software quality assurance.

The Department submitted the Recommendation 2002-1 Implementation Plan (IP) to the DNFSB on March 13,2003. The IP defined the actions and processes that the Department would undertake and complete to enhance the quality of safety software used by the Department's defense nuclear facilities. Since then, the Department periodically informed the DNFSB of the completion of various commitments in the IP. The commitments with completion dates are identified in the enclosed report that describes the Department's ongoing effort in continuously improving safety software quality assurance. The report also addresses certain issues related to the control, grading, and use of consensus standards for safety software in departmental directives. These issues were noted during the October 15,2009, briefing to the DNFSB on the completion of the IP commitments.

The DNFSB's Recommendation 2002-1 has significantly improved safety software quality assurance within the Department. The Department will brief the DNFSB on the safety software quality assurance activities as requested, and as part of annual briefings on the quality assurance program implementation. The issues identified in the Recommendation have been addressed, therefore the Department requests formal closure of Recommendation 2002-1.



If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact
Mr. Andrew Lawrence, Director, Office Nuclear Safety, Quality Assurance and
Environment at (202) 586-5680.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven Chu

Enclosure