



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

October 22, 2012

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Winokur:

On April 25, 2007, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued Recommendation 2007-1, *Safety-Related In Situ Nondestructive Assay of Radioactive Material*. The Secretary of Energy accepted this recommendation and the Department of Energy (Department) developed a comprehensive implementation plan to meet the objectives of the recommendation. The purpose of this letter is to report that the Department has completed actions to address the last open commitments and considers the implementation plan for Recommendation 2007-1 closed. A summary of implementation plan commitments and deliverables is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

Commitment 5.5.3 addresses the need to conduct triennial reviews of the need for new Nondestructive Assay (NDA) holdup measurement technology and the status of ongoing NDA-related research and development programs. This commitment is incorporated in the Technical Support Group (TSG) charter (Enclosure 2). This group will continue to support the NDA program in the long term in a manner similar to the Criticality Safety Support Group and with a similar funding mechanism.


Commitment 5.5.4 ensures the Department periodically reviews NDA holdup measurement programs to ensure technology is adequate for their intended purpose. The annual reviews have been incorporated in the assessment planning for the sites of interest both in Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration (Enclosure 3-7).

The Department recognizes that continuous improvement in the *in situ* NDA can only be achieved with adequate training and qualification of personnel, equipment capabilities, proper guidance and directives, focused research and development, an effective quality assurance program, and oversight. These areas will continue to receive programmatic attention in the future; in addition, the established NDA TSG will track and assess *in situ* NDA issues.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Jeffry Roberson,
Responsible Manager for 2007-1 Board Recommendation, at (301) 903-9228.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. D'Agostino
Administrator

Enclosures

cc: M. Campagnone, HS-1.1
J. McConnell, NA-00
M. Moury, EM-1