

Dated: May 16, 2000.

Michael Cohen,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 00-12760 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE Response to Recommendation 2000-2 of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2000-2, concerning the control of safety system configuration, was published in the **Federal Register** on March 16, 2000 (65 FR 14255). Under section 315(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2286d(b), the Department of Energy was required to transmit a response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by April 28, 2000. The Secretary's timely response follows.

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response are due on or before June 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning the Secretary's response to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Steve Cary, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 28, 2000.

Michael A. Mikolanis,

Office of the Departmental Representative to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

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

Dear Mr. Chairman: The Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledges receipt of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 2000-2, issued on March 8, 2000, regarding safety systems vital to the protection of the public, workers, and the environment. Along with the analysis contained in the March 2000 assessment prepared by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health on the impact of safety program weaknesses upon ventilation and confinement ventilation systems that perform safety functions, the

DOE has completed a preliminary analysis of the issues raised in the Board's recommendation. The conclusions drawn from both of these analyses are consistent with the safety issues described in Recommendation 2000-2.

The Department accepts the recommendations contained in Recommendation 2000-2 and will develop an implementation plan to accomplish the following actions:

1. Development of expert-based guidelines for surveying and assessing confinement ventilation systems and implementation of a plan to identify and correct root cause deficiencies.

2. Incorporation of open commitments remaining in the action plan addressing safety issues related to High Efficiency Particulate Air filters.

3. Evaluation of existing practices and industry models for use in establishing a cognizant system engineer concept to strengthen the engineering resources available for facility configuration management.

4. Assessment of the availability and sufficiency of DOE expertise, identification of actions necessary to ensure expertise can be brought to bear in the life-cycle management of vital safety systems and that Federal technical expertise on safety systems is available to interface with operating contractors when significant system problems arise.

5. Review of line oversight of contractor programs to determine whether safety systems, as well as programs essential to system operability, are being included in those programs. As necessary, identify corrective actions to improve implementation of line oversight programs.

I have asked Mr. Steven Cary, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, to serve as the responsible manager for this recommendation. Mr. Cary will be the principal point of contact with the Board for this recommendation, and he will work with you and your staff to develop an acceptable implementation plan that meets our mutual expectations. If you have questions, please contact him at (202) 586-6151.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Richardson

[FR Doc. 00-12761 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Nevada

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Nevada Test Site. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires

that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Wednesday, June 7, 2000: 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Amargosa Valley Community Center, 821 E. Farm Road, Amargosa Valley, NV 89020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Rohrer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8513, phone: 702-295-0197.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Advisory Board is to make recommendations to DOE and its regulators in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda:

1. Discussion and review of additional underground water test area funding. Copies of the final agenda will be available at the meeting. **Public Participation:** The meeting is open to the public. Written statements may be filed with the Committee either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Kevin Rohrer, at the telephone number listed above. Requests must be received 5 days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business.

Minutes: The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except Federal holidays. Minutes will also be available by writing to Kevin Rohrer at the address listed above.

Issued at Washington, DC on May 16, 2000.

Rachel M. Samuel,

Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-12762 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Rocky Flats

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental