



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
 Washington, DC 20585

February 13, 2007

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a status of National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) activities to complete Commitment 9B of the Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2004-1, which was due December 31, 2006. The deliverable per this commitment was to "Report to the Secretary on review activities to evaluate implementation of the processes and criteria for delegating authorities to field personnel for fulfilling safety responsibilities and to determine whether all existing delegations of authority to the Department of Energy Field Offices have been and are being made using these new processes and criteria." NNSA expects to complete Commitment 9B by April 30, 2007.

NNSA has developed a rigorous nuclear safety delegation process to ensure that delegations are made to meet the criteria developed by the Deputy Secretary per Commitment 9A. A procedure was implemented and NNSA Headquarters (HQ) is in the process of evaluating Site Office delegation requests. Nuclear safety delegations have already been approved for the Pantex Site Office. The recent leadership changes at HQ and some Site Offices, coupled with NNSA's desire to grant nuclear safety delegations in a consistent and deliberative manner, has resulted in slower than anticipated progress. NNSA expects to complete nuclear safety delegations for its Site Offices by the end of April 2007.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. D'Agostino
 Acting Administrator

cc:
 M. Whitaker, HS-1.1

