



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



JUN 25 2012

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

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JUN 26 2012

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On December 29, 2011, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued a letter with a 120-day reporting requirement for a report and briefing that details the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA's) assessment of the actions taken by the contractor and site office at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) to address work planning and controls weaknesses. My letter dated March 27, 2012, promised a response by June 27, 2012. The briefing has been scheduled when the Board visits Y-12 next month and will also include any planned improvements to the training and qualification program as requested from your letter of June 5, 2012.

On June 18, 2012, the NNSA Production Office (NPO) replaced the Y-12 Site Office and Pantex Site Office to execute contract management and Federal oversight of nuclear production missions at the Pantex Site and Y-12 National Security Complex.

NNSA and Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services, Y-12 LLC (B&W Y-12) are committed to effective work planning processes and their implementation, given the complexity and hazards of the work involved. The site has focused upon five areas of concern:

- 1) Improving the clarity of work scope in work control documentation and fully integrating them with Y-12 procedures and directives.
- 2) Improving the hazard identification process and more closely aligning the hazard with the work or task being performed.
- 3) Improving the implementation of work controls and work execution by simplifying packages, clarifying expectations and condensing the paperwork.
- 4) Developing feedback processes to support continuous improvement.
- 5) Increasing and improving field oversight by the NPO and B&W Y-12.

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The four enclosures include: *B&W Work Planning & Control Performance Improvement Plan*, (Rev 2), independent assessment, self-assessment by B&W Y-12, and NPO's evaluation of effectiveness. These enclosures serve to highlight improvements in management attention, work planning processes and implementation, and strengthened oversight by B&W Y-12 and NPO. Improvements have been made in the areas of work package format, content, hazard identification, and pre-job planning. There have also been improvements in procedures and field implementation of hazard controls.

As discussed in previous letters to you on activity-level work planning and work control at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Nevada National Security Site, the Office of Defense Programs remains committed to an already established partnership with the Energy Facilities Contractors Group (EFCOG) and other Federal offices to further improve work planning and work control at NNSA sites. Subject matter experts from B&W Y-12 are actively working with the assembled project team.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. James McConnell at (202) 586-4379.

Sincerely,


for Donald L. Cook
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

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