



The Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

October 23, 2008

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DNFSB SAFETY BOARD

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change in our plans for developing a Department of Energy (DOE)-wide schedule for implementing DOE Manual 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging Manual*. We now plan to provide the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) with this schedule in March 2009. The reason for this change is discussed in the enclosure to this letter.

Please contact me or Dr. James O'Brien, the Responsible Manager for DNFSB Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, at (301) 903-1408 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel W. Bodman".

Samuel W. Bodman

Enclosure



SEPARATION

PAGE

Enclosure

**PLANS FOR DEVELOPING AN  
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE  
FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MANUAL 441.1-1**

**BACKGROUND**

In August 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued an Implementation Plan (IP) for addressing safety issues identified by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) in Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*. In the IP, DOE committed to develop requirements for packaging of nuclear materials for safe storage outside of engineered contamination barriers and to develop a DOE-wide schedule for implementing the requirements. Specific commitments included:

- Develop a packaging storage criteria document (Manual) and submit it into the Department's Directives System (RevCom) for DOE-wide review and approval.
- Develop site-specific resource-loaded schedules and funding plans for implementing the new packaging and storage Manual (120 days after the draft Manual is submitted to RevCom).
- Issue a DOE-wide schedule for implementing the Manual (180 days after new Manual is submitted to RevCom).

**BASIS FOR CHANGE IN PLANS**

The draft Manual was submitted into RevCom in March 2007 and DOE Field Offices developed resource-loaded schedules in June 2007. DOE Headquarters then utilized the resource-loaded schedules to develop a draft DOE-wide implementation schedule in September 2007. However, the Department recognized at the time that, because the Manual had not been issued final, it was not able to make firm plans for funding its implementation and decided it was not appropriate to provide a draft schedule to the DNFSB until appropriate funding plans could be made.

After the final Manual was issued in March 2008, the Office of Health Safety and Security (HSS) began work on developing a DOE-wide implementation schedule in coordination with the affected DOE Program and Field Offices. However, HSS and the Program and Field Offices concluded that resource estimates and funding plans needed to be updated to support the establishment of a realistic DOE-wide

schedule. On September 29, 2008, HSS issued a memorandum to the Under Secretaries requesting their support in collecting, by December 31, 2008, the data needed to complete the DOE-wide schedule.

In order to provide the DNFSB with the best product possible, and in light of the need to collect and analyze updated data (and to obtain senior management concurrence on the DOE-wide schedule), DOE expects that it will take until March 2009 to complete and deliver this schedule to the DNFSB.