



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 24, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR TIMOTHY A. FRAZIER
DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S
NUCLEAR FUTURE

FROM: GLENN S. PODONSKY
CHIEF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

This memorandum is a response to the request by Commissioner Eisenhower at the BRC Public Hearing held May 13, 2011, for information about the Department of Energy's (DOE) training process. More specifically, Commissioner Eisenhower wanted to know what kind of training the Department is providing and what changes will occur as a result of the events in Japan.

Training Process:

In general, our training process is based upon Federal and contractor personnel qualified to their position of record. DOE Order 426.2, "*Personnel Selection, Training, Qualification and Certification Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities*" establishes requirements for contractor personnel who can impact the safety basis through their involvement in operation, maintenance, or technical support for nuclear facilities. For Federal employees, the Department's training program requirements are detailed in DOE Order 426.1, "*Federal Technical Capability*", which defines the requirements and responsibilities for developing and retaining a technically competent workforce through a Technical Qualification Program (TQP).

The mission of the Safety Training Program is to foster a technically capable DOE workforce from a safety perspective, by recruiting, training, and retaining qualified safety professionals. The primary driver for the Safety Training Program is the TQP, with courses designed to support the TQP and its associated DOE safety-related Qualification Standards. This Program identifies the competencies that employees must possess to ensure DOE defense nuclear facilities are operated in a safe manner; clearly identifies and documents the process used to demonstrate employee technical competence; ensures employees maintain their technical competencies; and maintains a cycle of continuous performance improvement through structured individualized training and development programs.

Nuclear Safety Training Currently Provided:

Facility or contractor specific training is provided at the various DOE sites by the responsible contractor organizations to meet the requirements of DOE Order 426.2. In addition, and to provide a more centralized approach for certain training needs, the DOE National Training



Center's (NTC) Safety Training Program designs, develops, and implements quality training for DOE Federal and contractor employees who have safety-related responsibilities at DOE defense nuclear facilities. We have improved the NTC's training programs by recently incorporating 23 safety basis courses into the NTC Curriculum. Course descriptions can be viewed at: <http://ntc.doe.gov/shared/courses.aspx?section=saf>

Training Changes to Occur as a Consequence of the Events in Japan:

We will use the lessons learned from both the event and the results of our Safety Bulletin to build upon our standardized nuclear safety training foundation. Site-specific training will be reviewed to identify potential improvements. For example, in the area of emergency response and as policy/procedural changes are identified, training will be developed or revised and provided as necessary. Issues/solutions identified at the DOE Nuclear Safety Workshop and beyond will be taken into consideration and applied to our nuclear safety training curriculum.

Currently, as part of a broader DOE Management reform to achieve management and operational excellence, we are in the process of aligning all Departmental training under one DOE university model umbrella. A key step in this effort was hiring a new Director of the NTC. This Director is responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the NTC and leading a number of related efforts to plan its future direction in support of the Department's training mission in collaboration with the Chief Human Capital Officer, NNSA, and the Offices of Environmental Management and Science.

Additionally, at the direction of the Associate Deputy Secretary, a Departmental Nuclear Safety and Security Council has been established to address technical and programmatic safety and security issues. This Council will support continuous improvement in the areas of nuclear safety and security to include evaluating training and other cross cutting nuclear safety issues. Although in its early stages, this Council is considering the establishment of a new position - a Chief Nuclear Safety and Security Training Officer for the Department.