Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

AUG 2 4 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: MICHAEL A. THOMPSON
ASSISTANT DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION
OFFICE OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: National Nuclear Security Administration Defense Programs and Energy Facility Contractors Group Quality Assurance Improvement Project

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) made a significant commitment to improve Quality Assurance (QA) throughout their operations in a joint Quality Assurance Improvement Project (QAIP). The project focused on enhancing the effectiveness of existing QA Programs thereby improving the safe, reliable human performance, and quality of work. The project Executive Committee, led by the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Operations, and Governance Reform (NA-17) and the EFCOG President, oversaw these efforts and received quarterly progress reports to ensure the project remained on track. The project received the necessary support to accomplish the desired outcome.

The QAIP initially focused on key issues identified by the QAIP leadership; specifically, the Nuclear Construction project QA, QA Implementation status, and the quality culture. The QAIP leadership felt these issues warranted addressing first in order to most efficiently use available resources. Other issues were identified for follow-on efforts. These are addressed in the project plan.

In February 2010, the Executive Committee agreed with the Co-Project Managers (Samuel Johnson, NA-10's QA Manager, and Bob Dotson of BWXT Pantex) and Focus Area Team Leads for the above-mentioned issues that their tasks were complete and further agreed with the recommendation to close those Focus Areas. The attached memorandums are provided to the Site Office Managers forwarding the results of these tasks and reflect the completed actions, findings, and recommendations of the Teams.

In evaluating the remaining issues or tasks, the QAIP Executive Committee acknowledges the outstanding work being done in these areas within the EFCOG

Working Groups. With the exception of the QA Human Capital Management Program (QA HCMP), the remaining areas are being addressed in significant detail. It would not be prudent to duplicate these efforts or distract valuable resources with redundant activities. NA-17 will continue to work in-house with the Site Offices to address the QA HCMP.

NA-17 encourages and supports the EFCOG effort in its continuing efforts related to this project, such as work planning, Commercial Grade Dedication, and many other efforts. Site Office Managers and Management & Operating contractors are requested to participate and continue in these outstanding efforts. It is in our best interests to collaborate with other critical endeavors to address existing weaknesses and shortcomings. The EFCOG is an outstanding mechanism to bring the Department of Energy's top talent together to address such key and pressing issues that warrant attention.

I would like to personally thank those directly involved in this project and those that have supported the effort. While I am declaring the QAIP a success and a completed project, I am also acknowledging that the EFCOG provides a path for continuous improvement in these areas.

Attachments

cc w/attachments:
P. Horning, EFCIOG
N. Barker, EFCOG
J. Yanek, EFCOG
D. Nichols, NA-2.1
F. Russo, NA-3.6
J. McConnell, NA-17
S. Goodrum, NA-12
P. Niedzielski-Eichner, NA-14
C. Tucker, NA-15
M. Thompson, NA-16
R. Snyder, LASO
A. Williams, LSO
K. Davis, SSO
S. Mellington, NSO
M. Holecek, KCSO
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M. Mistretta, NA-16
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Department of Energy
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Washington, DC 20585

June 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: JAMES J. MCCONNELL
ASSISTANT DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND OPERATIONS
OFFICE OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Nuclear Quality Assurance (NQA-1) Applicability in the National Security Enterprise

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Defense Programs (NA-10) has begun modernizing the National Security Enterprise (NSE) facilities and infrastructure. With this effort, a renewed and more focused emphasis on nuclear facility quality assurance is required. In consideration of DOE and nuclear industry developments and a recent NNSA analysis with respect to NQA-1, the ASME NQA-1 (Version 2008 with 2009 Addenda) shall be adopted as the preferred QA standard for new nuclear facilities not yet having an approved Critical Decision 1 (CD-1). Otherwise, continue to use approved Quality Assurance requirements.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is currently updating DOE O 414.1c (Quality Assurance). This revision is expected to require new Hazard Category 1, 2 and 3 new nuclear facility projects not having attained a Critical Decision 1 to adopt ASME NQA-1 (Version 2008 with 2009 Addenda) as its primary quality assurance standard. The Office of Environmental Management (EM) currently requires all EM nuclear facilities to use either ASME NQA-1 2000 (existing facilities) or 2004 with 2007 Addenda (new facilities not having an approved CD-1). Liaison with EM indicates they are in the process of updating this policy to require new facilities to use ASME NQA-1 (Version 2008 with 2009 Addenda). Additionally, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is expected to endorse ASME NQA-1 (Version 2008 with 2009 Addenda) very soon and expect new nuclear power plants to adopt it as the QA standard for these plants.

The NA-10 Quality Assurance (QA) community in conjunction with the NNSA / EFCOG Joint Quality Assurance Improvement Project, recently completed a study to evaluate and review the ramifications of implementing ASME NQA-1 for work in NA-10 nuclear facilities and nuclear construction projects, including evaluating the costs, benefits, and risks associated with adoption of ASME NQA-1. Some organizations within NNSA were

report can be obtained from Anita Leivo of the Los Alamos Site Office.

Consistent with the recent analysis and the trends within the DOE and nuclear industry NA-10 fully supports these policies and plans. Use of NQA-1 throughout the NSE will enable the NSE to standardize, to the most recent nuclear industry standards, the many activities performed at the eight NSE nuclear sites, including the Savannah River Site under the EM contract. In addition to the many other benefits from using ASME NQA-1, this action to adopt the latest NQA-1 version is necessary to improve credibility throughout NNSA and the DOE as leaders within the nuclear industry. As such, use of ASME NQA-1 throughout the NSE establishes "what" the contractors are expected to do rather than directing "how" they will assure nuclear quality assurance.

The applicable QA requirements to better assure quality in nuclear work are summarized in the following table:

Applicable QA Requirements	
Existing Facilities	Continue to use approved Quality Assurance requirements for the particular facility.
New Nuclear Facilities	**CD-1 NOT YET APPROVED** Use ASME NQA-1 Version 2008 with 2009 Addenda or later version with applicable Subparts of Part 2 **CD-1 APPROVED** Continue to use approved Quality Assurance requirements

It is generally expected that all projects to acquire new nuclear facilities in NNSA will invoke ASME NQA-1 version 2008 with the 2009 addenda. However, NNSA recognizes that there may be circumstances where it is technically or economically beneficial to invoke some other consensus quality standards. In those cases, a project may choose a different standard provided the specific justification is approved in advance by the Acquisition Executive. The NA-10 QA Manager, Sam Johnson, may be contacted at (202) 586-8854 on these matters.