
Summary of Management Response Plan

To ensure timely action by DOE for addressing the generic chemical safety vulnerabilities identified during this review, the Chemical Safety Vulnerability Working Group has developed the "Management Response Plan for the Chemical Safety Vulnerability Review," dated August 1994, which is being issued separately from this report. In developing this plan, the Working Group considered the recommendations and suggestions provided in the management response plans developed by the field for facility- and site-specific vulnerabilities identified during the self-evaluation and field verification phases of the review. Input was also provided by program and field offices, as well as by management and operating contractors, during and after the June 7-8, 1994, Working Group meeting. The Working Group's goals for the response plan were twofold: to correct existing chemical problems within the DOE complex and to prevent the recurrence of similar problems. The response plan has been developed as a "living document" that will be modified and updated, as appropriate.

The Working Group's goals for the response plan were twofold: to correct existing chemical problems within the DOE complex and to prevent the recurrence of similar problems.

The management response plan is organized into sections that generally correspond to the programmatic deficiencies identified by the Working Group. The tasks and subtasks outlined in these sections are intended to produce practical, concrete results in a timely and cost-effective manner. To accomplish these goals, the plan calls for the formation of an Action Team for Chemical Safety chaired by a representative of the Office of Environment, Safety and Health and composed of DOE Headquarters and field personnel. The Action Team will coordinate and monitor implementation of the response plan's proposed actions and will assist the sites in program improvement efforts.

The response plan's proposed actions, which will emphasize the use of established practices in an innovative manner, reflect several departmental objectives. Specifically, these objectives stress providing assistance through the Office of Environment, Safety and Health for workshops, management tools, model program development, and the use of commercial chemical industry programs and practices. Commendable programs and practices (e.g., inventory control programs similar to the Chemical Management System used by Pacific Northwest Laboratory) that exist at various DOE sites will be identified and used, where appropriate, and successes will be shared by organizations at the same site and across sites. Actions to

resolve identified deficiencies will be supported by existing resources through team approaches, matrix support, and sharing resources to develop methods for the mutual benefit of multiple organizations. Similarly, existing programs and practices (e.g., the EH Chemical Safety Program; initiatives developed by the Offices of Field Management, Environmental Management, and Defense Programs for aging facilities, facilities in transition, and chemical inventory reduction) will be emphasized to increase the effectiveness of committed resources. Finally, ongoing corrective actions for facility- and site-specific vulnerabilities will be recognized, and management response plans developed by individual sites will be upgraded to include programs that will resolve the generic vulnerabilities identified by the Working Group.