

NASA AEROSPACE SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546
VADM Joseph W. Dyer USN, (Ret.), Chair

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546

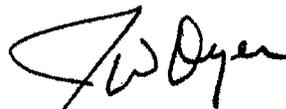
Dear Mr. Bolden:

The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) reviewed NASA's responses dated May 26, 2010; June 23, 2010; August 30, 2010; September 13 and 17, 2010; and October 27, 2010 and has statused eleven recommendations as open (Enclosed). The criterion for requesting that the recommendations stay open generally falls into one of the following areas:

- Response was inadequate and not on target with the ASAP objective.
- Plans described to accomplish the action should result in acceptable results, however there was no schedule provided for completing the various tasks indicated.
- Updated status reporting is required on significant milestones that are underway.
- Verification is needed to determine if results achieved the intended purpose.

In some cases, we have indicated an upcoming quarterly meeting where additional information and updates are requested and opportunities would be available for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Dyer, VADM, USN (Ret.)
Chair
Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel

Enclosure

ASAP Review of NASA Responses

The eleven recommendations stated by the ASAP as open include:

1. 2010-01-04a, Research Be Initiated to Establish and Codify Crew Vibration limits for Various Phases of Flight for Future Space Vehicles – Open, pending NASA approval of the vibration requirements in the NASA Technical Standard; schedule for completing the two preliminary reports for CxP PDR on acoustics, readability, and speech under vibration; and schedule for conducting research and reporting on three studies planned on speech intelligibility, label recommendations and display design for vehicles under vibration.
2. 2010-01-05, Acquisition Strategy and Timeline for Development and Publication of Human rating Requirements for Commercial Activities – Open for additional information on acquisition strategy vis-à-vis safety. One very specific example of the ASAP's concern on lack of guidelines for acquisition was expressed in its 2010 4th quarterly report, "The Panel is not yet comfortable with the harmony between technical readiness level and a fixed-price contracting approach. A lack of compatibility between these elements can often increase risk as funding runs short and time runs out."
3. 2010-01-06, Knowledge Capture and Management – Open. Request that a schedule be provided showing the timeline and expected completion for the various tasks.
4. 2009-03-07, NASA External Communications – Open. Response was inadequate and not on target with the ASAP objective. The ASAP's concern has to do with what NASA can do to assure that communication with the media, particularly in the case of news releases, is honest and is of a plain spoken manner that adequately describes the actual or potential risks or problems of a particular operation to preserve NASA's credibility and to adequately alert the public to potential negative outcomes. Request that the response be revised to address these concerns.
5. 2010-02-04, Public Affairs Role – Open. The ASAP would like to see an agency response to this recommendation and not one from the individual office. Request that an updated status be provided at the 1st quarterly meeting at NASA Headquarters on February 3, 2011.
6. 2008-01-06 Follow-up, NASA Headquarters Mishap Investigation – Open. Request that a briefing be provided at the 1st quarterly meeting at NASA Headquarters on February 3, 2011 relating to the changes and status of the NPR changes. Now that the immediate changes required to effect near-term process improvements have taken place, it is appropriate to begin a strategic review of the mishap investigation process. Request that NASA discuss their five year strategic plan to effect continuous improvement.
7. 2010-02-02, Mishap Investigation Process and Plan – Open, pending briefing and receipt of Commercial Mishap Investigation Plan.

8. 2010-01-01, Research and Development of S&MA Tools – Open. Request a briefing on the recommendations from two ongoing efforts (1) the S&MA Technical Fellows’ “State of Discipline” assessments and (2) the OSMA R&T Strategy Team to be presented at the 1st quarterly meeting at NASA Headquarters on February 3, 2011 with subsequent quarterly meetings as indicated.
9. 2010-01-03, S&MA to Analyze Changing Work and Skills Needed for the Future – Open. Request a briefing on detailed S&MA assessments at the 1st quarterly meeting at NASA Headquarters on February 3, 2011 and quarterly thereafter.
10. 2010-01-01, Methodology for Performing Integrated Abort Risk analyses and Development of Support Tools – Open, pending verification that results achieved the intended purpose. Request a briefing at the 3rd quarterly meeting at GSFC on July 14, 2011 if not sooner.
11. 2010-01-08, Leading Indicators for Industrial Safety – Open, pending verification that results achieved the intended purpose. Request a briefing at the 2nd quarterly meeting at KSC on April 28, 2011 if not sooner.