

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

November 5, 1993

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has reviewed the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan submitted to the Board on November 4, 1993, for Board Recommendation 93-3 entitled "Improving DOE Technical Capability in Defense Nuclear Facilities Programs."

The Board previously agreed with DOE that the 93-3 Plan could be used as an umbrella under which past plans for training and qualification recommendations could be addressed. Specifically, elements of the 93-3 Plan now also serve as a revised Implementation Plan for Board Recommendation 92-7 regarding DOE and contractor training and qualifications for technical personnel. The tasks and commitments in DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-3, including elements addressing 92-7, conform to the standards set forth in the Board's Policy Statement No. 1, "Criteria for Judging the Adequacy of DOE's Responses and Implementation Plans for Board Recommendations" (55 Fed. Reg. 43398).

The Board is extremely pleased with the work of DOE's 93-3 task group, which was able to develop and submit to you a fully responsive plan to implement these important recommendations regarding recruitment, retention, education, training, and qualifications for technical personnel working in the defense nuclear complex. We commend the members of your staff who developed, within the statutory deadline, a plan which is exemplary.

The extraordinary measures called for in the plan will require dedication and commitment from the highest levels of DOE, as well as the full cooperation of technical managers throughout line organizations in the defense nuclear complex. Successful implementation will surely be consistent with Presidential exhortations to all agencies of government for more effective delivery of services to the citizenry. The Board will be following progress in implementation with considerable interest and continued support.

The DNFSB 93-3 task group remains available to assist the Department during the implementation of its plan. Because of the importance of this Recommendation to the long-term safety of the complex the Board has informed the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources that the Board's General Counsel and General Manager from the DNFSB 93-3 task group are also available to assist DOE while it seeks excepted appointment authority.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

Copy to: Mark Whitaker, Acting DR-1