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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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August 9, 1994

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

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 93-2 on Critical Experiments Capability was accepted on September 30, 1993. The Board has just received the first Annual Report. The report is very informative in its description of program requirements, funding projections, and anticipated future needs. The problems that have plagued the Department's criticality program, e.g., program instability, indefinite program direction, and lack of shared responsibility, seem to be corrected and replaced with a long-term cooperative program with worthwhile objectives.

The Board noted that DOE views competence in criticality as a system to which the principles of systems engineering should be applied. The Board has repeatedly encouraged DOE to use systems engineering in its solution to problems and is heartened to see the approach being practiced.

We congratulate the Department for a fine report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John T. Conway".

John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mark B. Whitaker, Acting EH-6