

[UNDER SECRETARY LETTERHEAD]

December 30, 1996

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides a review and update of the Department's activities related to developing and issuing the Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manuals (FRAMs). As described in the December 12, 1996 Public Hearing, the FRAM documents will now be issued in May 1997. The FRAM documents will consist of a corporate (Level 1) and secretarial and field offices (Level 2) FRAMs.

Commitment 4.1 of the Department's Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 95-2 required the Department to revise the existing Functions, Assignment, and Responsibilities (FAR) Manual. The FRAM is the most pressing, unresolved safety management issue. I have established an Executive with senior Department management to resolve ongoing issues and provide direction. Frank McCoy, Director Safety Management Implementation Team, is a member of the Executive Team. He also oversees the detailed development of the FRAM and updates me personally on progress and issues. These actions, along with my personal attention, will ensure that the FRAM effort is consistent with safety management organization instituted pursuant to the 95-2 Safety Management Implementation Plan.

To produce an effective system of FRAMs, the Level 1 FRAM will not be approved and issued until it is integrated with Level 2 FRAMs. We will develop Level 2 FRAMs for secretarial and field offices managers associated with the ten priority facilities identified in the 95-2 Implementation Plan, and we will then integrate the Level 2 FRAMs with the Level 1 FRAM. Following this integration, the set of Level 1 and Level 2 FRAMs will be issued together.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Frank McCoy at (202) 586-1418.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly