

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

December 15, 1997

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We appreciated the opportunity to brief the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on the status of Recommendation 951. You asked in your June 5, 1997, letter and reiterated during our discussion that the Board be informed of the results of actions taken by the Department of Energy and Lockheed Martin Energy Systems in determining controls to address the cylinder handler fire scenario identified in the final safety analysis reports.

On November 20, 1997, we sent you a copy of, "KTSO56, Implementation of Additional Fire Controls Requirements Analysis, Revision 1. "This was the last of three documents formalizing the implementation of additional controls and operational procedures to prevent or mitigate the cylinder handler fire scenario. Equipment modifications shown in table 3 of KTSO56 will be completed by April 30, 1998. These include requirements to carry fire extinguishers and maintain radio contact with the emergency squad during cylinder handling activities. Administrative controls, item numbers one through eight in table 3, will be incorporated in formal documentation and procedures by June 30, 1998. These controls are being incorporated into the safety analysis reports. In addition, the fuel in the cylinder handlers will be restricted to one-half the design capacity and documented as a technical safety requirement.

Also raised in the June 24, 1997, discussion was closure of Recommendation 95-1 concerning the depleted uranium storage cylinders as proposed in my letter of June 17, 1997. Based on our discussion, we agreed that the recommendation should remain open as the Board continues to monitor our progress on the safety management of the depleted uranium cylinders.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with the Board our progress on this program. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (202) 586-2240.

Sincerely,

***Ray A. Hunter, Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Energy,
Science and Technology***