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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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October 30, 1997

Mr. Gene Ives
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application
and Stockpile Management
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Ives:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has received your October 21, 1997, letter requesting an extension for submitting a technical report on lightning protection for collocated high explosives and special nuclear material at the Pantex Plant. The Board hereby grants your request for additional time to prepare and submit the report no later than February 20, 1998.

In reviewing your description of the Lightning Protection Project Team, the Board noticed that the team does not include a representative from the Nevada Operations Office. Although the Board understands the focus of the report is the Pantex Plant, the Department of Energy might wish to consider the advantages of maintaining a consistent approach for those generic issues which affect nuclear explosive safety across the complex. The Board and its staff will closely follow the progress of your Lightning Protection Project Team.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.