

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

April 8, 1997

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been assigned the responsibility for responding to your March 14, 1997, letter regarding the issues with the Seamless Safety 21 (SS-21) process.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has chartered an Integrated Safety Process Task Team, which will include a review of the SS-21 process, to resolve issues regarding safety management at the Pantex Plant and within the DOE nuclear weapons complex. This task team includes broad representation from across the Defense Programs complex. Results of meetings of this group are routinely made available to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staff. I will provide you a complete report when we have finished our review.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879 or have your staff contact Marty Schoenbauer of my staff at 301-903-3489.

Sincerely,

Gene Ives

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Management
Defense Programs