

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS OFFICE

July 18, 1997

Mr. John T. Conway, Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Conway,

**RECENT WELDING AND CUTTING FATALITY AT THE K25 SITE IN OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

On February 13, 1997, a tragic welding and cutting fatality occurred in Oak Ridge at the K33 Building, East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly called the K25 Site). The worker, who was a welder employed by Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc., suffered fatal burns when his personal protective clothing caught fire while using a cutting torch. As you may know, a Department of Energy Type A Accident Investigation Board was formed and issued a final report on the accident on April 22, 1997.

One of the many corrective actions we have taken as a result of this tragedy was to produce a lessons learned video tape (enclosed). We are using the tape to make presentations around the Department. The tape is very candid and reinforces the need for an integrated approach to safety. I also believe the tape leaves a lasting personal impression concerning the human side of this tragedy and its impact on family, friends, and coworkers.

If you or other Board members would like further information, or perhaps a presentation on the lessons learned, please contact me at (423) 5764444.

Sincerely,

James C. Hall  
Manager

Enclosure

cc w/o enclosure:

Mark Whitaker, S3.1, HQ/FORS  
Al Alm, EMI, HQ/FORS  
Terry Lash, NE-1, HQ/FORS  
Tara O'Toole, EHI, HQ/FORS  
Bob Poe, SE30, ORO  
Joe Parks, EF20, ORO  
Rod Nelson, EW90, ORO