

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

July 31, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter forwards to the Board the Department's Functions, Responsibilities and Authorities Manual (FRAM). The FRAM consists of a corporate (level 1) FRAM and secretarial and field office (level 2) FRAMs for those offices associated with the ten priority facilities identified in the 95-2 Implementation Plan. Drafts were provided to the Board on May 29, 1997, for review and comment.

The Department has made significant progress in developing the FRAMs. Particular care is being given in this effort to ensure that it supports the principles and functions of the Safety Management Implementation Plan. These documents are "living documents" which will be updated and improved during implementation, to incorporate additional comments and correct any gaps on coverage of functional area responsibilities. These documents will also be revised as appropriate to reflect major organizational initiatives underway within the Department, such as the "120-day study," the Environmental Management 2006 Plan, and responsibilities for DOE-wide integration of safety management initiatives.

The level 1 document is completed and has been submitted to the Secretary for review and approval prior to publication in the Directives System. The following level 2 documents have been compiled, integrated, and approved by their respective Secretarial Officers or Field Office Managers.

Office of Defense Programs  
Office of Environment, Safety, and Health  
Office of Environmental Management  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
Oak Ridge Field Office  
Oakland Operations Office  
Richland Operations Office  
Rocky Flats Field Office  
Savannah River Operations Office

The Department considers the Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manual to be one of the more important of its safety-related directives and the maintenance of its currency a necessity for effective safety management. The Department is aware that some of the documents of this issue are not totally consistent with assignment of responsibilities set forth in recently revised DOE Orders. The Department's Recommendation 95-2 implementation team is working with the Secretarial Officers and Field Managers to identify these variances

with the objective of having the appropriate Secretarial Officers and Field Managers address them.

As committed to in the May 29, 1997, letter to the Board, the appropriate Secretarial Officers and Field Office Managers are available to brief the Board on their FRAMs. When scheduled, this discussion will address how the DOE line and oversight functions and responsibilities in current DOE Orders are reflected in these documents and how the variances have been reconciled.

Sincerely,

Richard Crowe

Attachment

cc: (w/o Attachments)

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M. Whitaker, S-3.1  
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