

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

October 6, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In our September 8, 1997, response to your letter of August 8, 1997, I agreed to provide a written response concerning issues raised in your staff's trip report dated April 18, 1997.

In our desire to reach closure on these issues, we prepared a draft response and furnished it to your staff on September 23, 1997. These responses were developed in consultation with the national laboratories, Battelle Pantex, Amarillo Area Office (AAO), Albuquerque Operations Office (AL), and Headquarters. On September 24, 1997, a video conference was held between your staff, AL, AAO, and various Headquarters elements to discuss the draft response. The conference concluded that the draft response will be modified to address some additional concerns and, therefore, the response date would slip accordingly.

In addition, due to the recent stoppage of W69 disassembly operations, we are updating our response to ensure that you are apprised of the status of this ongoing action; the same personnel are required to address both actions.

My response to these issues will be furnished to you by October 30, 1997. If you have questions, please call me or have your staff contact Edward Cassidy of my staff at 301903-7559.

Sincerely,

Gene Ives
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Military Application and
Stockpile Management
Defense Programs