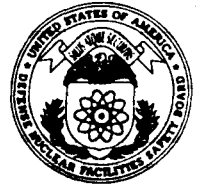


John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Joseph J. DiNunno
Herbert John Cecil Kouts
John E. Mansfield

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004-2901
(202) 208-6400



September 10, 1998

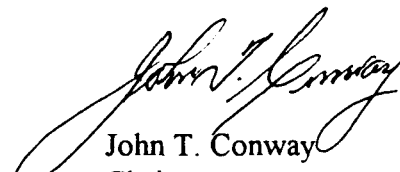
The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

On behalf of myself and the other Members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board), I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of the Department of Energy. We wish you well in meeting the heavy demands of your office.

The Board Members look forward to working with you and your associates to ensure the successful and safe operation of the defense nuclear facilities under your authority. We are prepared to meet with you at the earliest opportunity that your schedule permits.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Elizabeth A. Moler
The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.