

John T. Conway, Chairman  
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman  
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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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**SECRET -- RESTRICTED DATA**

September 30, 1998

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


Dear Secretary Richardson:

On September 30, 1998, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board), in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 2286a(a)(5), unanimously approved Recommendation 98-2, which is enclosed for your consideration. Recommendation 98-2, deals with Safety Management at the Pantex Plant.

42 U.S.C. § 2286d(a) requires the Board, after receipt by you, to promptly make this recommendation available to the public in the Department of Energy's (DOE) regional public reading rooms. However, the recommendation contains information which is classified or otherwise restricted. Please arrange to have this letter forwarding the recommendation (which is unclassified when separated from the attachment) promptly placed on file in your regional public reading rooms.

The following is an unclassified summary of the Board's recommendation: The Board believes that opportunities exist to strengthen and simplify the process by which DOE designs and develops activities at the Pantex Plant and independently evaluates the safety of those operations. The Board believes that DOE should take action to improve these processes.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.

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