



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

**JAN 16 1998**

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your December 31, 1997 letter to Secretary Peña concerning safety issues at Building 332, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). A number of issues were raised in the enclosure to your letter. We are aware of these issues and are in agreement with your concerns. Senior staff from Defense Programs, the Oakland Operations Office and LLNL met at the laboratory during the week of January 12, 1998 to jointly negotiate a path forward to meet all Board expectations. Members of your staff observed the meeting.

The Department of Energy (DOE) will provide a briefing to the Board on the corrective action plan as soon as it is finalized to the satisfaction of your staff and DOE management. Thank you for your observations related to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Staffin".

Robin Staffin  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Research and Development  
Defense Programs

cc:  
Mark Whitaker, S-3.1

