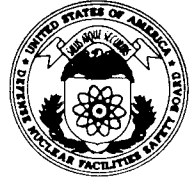


John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Joseph J. DiNunno
Herbert John Cecil Kouts
John E. Mansfield

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004-2901
(202) 694-7000



June 16, 1999

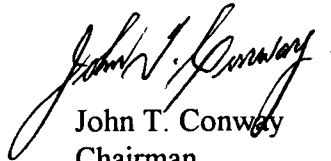
The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) received your letter of April 22, 1999, transmitting the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan for the Board's Recommendation 98-2, *Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*. The recommendation addresses the need to accelerate, simplify, and standardize improvements for nuclear explosive operations at the Pantex Plant. The plan addresses each of the issues raised by Recommendation 98-2 and conforms to the standards set forth in the Board's Policy Statement Number 1, "Criteria for Judging the Adequacy of DOE Responses and Implementation Plans for DNFSB Recommendations" (55 Fed. Reg. 43,398 [October 29, 1990]). The Board accepts the proposed Implementation Plan.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with DOE and its contractors throughout the implementation process. Completion of the effort should strengthen the Integrated Safety Management System at Pantex and expedite improvement in the safety bases of individual operations at the plant.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.