

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

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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May 7, 1999

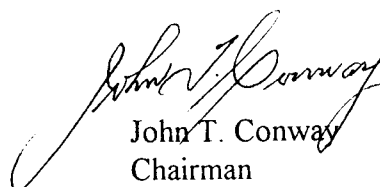
The Honorable David Michaels
Assistant Secretary for Environment,
Safety and Health
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0104

Dear Dr. Michaels:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has been following with interest the plan to conduct an EH Criticality Workshop for Senior Managers. This workshop was to have been held June 15-16, 1999. As a reflection of the importance the Board attaches to this effort, two Board members planned to attend and contribute to the program. We have now been informed by Dr. Jerry McKamy of the Office of Engineering Assistance and Site Interface that the EH Criticality Workshop for Senior Managers has been postponed. We are disappointed by this postponement as the Board strongly supports efforts to promote awareness of the crucial role of criticality in the safety of nuclear operations. Participation in a criticality workshop will provide senior Department of Energy managers a unique opportunity to develop an enhanced understanding of their responsibility in the programmatic management of criticality safety.

I wish also to inform you that the Board supports an early rescheduling of the criticality workshop and that both Dr. Herbert J. Kouts and Dr. Jack Mansfield remain committed to participating. Please inform me of Dr. McKamy's plan for rescheduling the proceedings.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Victor H. Reis
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.
Mr. Mark H. Williams