



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

April 18, 2001

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim reply to your letter of March 15, 2001, and its enclosed Staff Issue Report, which identified your concerns with the maintenance program at the Oak Ridge Y-12 National Security Complex including National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) oversight, the Y-12 Standards/Requirements Identification Document (S/RID), and other maintenance items. The maintenance S/RID has been revised to incorporate the same language as Department of Energy Order 4330.4B, *Maintenance Management Program*. It now requires periodic inspections of structures, systems, components, and equipment. We agree with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (DNFSB) assessment that such inspections are fundamental to successful implementation of Recommendation 2000-2.

The remaining items applicable to the Y-12 contractor are being addressed through a Maintenance Improvement Plan (MIP) that was initiated by the Y-12 Area Office and BWXT in January 2001. The MIP will be formally transmitted to the NNSA by April 19, 2001. Allowing 2 weeks for NNSA review of the plan and resolution of issues, we will be ready to brief the Board on our approach for addressing the issues identified in your letter and the accompanying staff report by May 1, 2001.

If you have any questions concerning our approach for improving the maintenance program at the Y-12 Plant, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mr. David E. Beck at 202-586-4879 or Mr. Phil Aiken at 301-903-4513.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Gioconda".

THOMAS F. GIOCONDA
Brigadier General, USAF
Acting Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

cc:
M. Whitaker, S-3.1

