



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

April 20, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 2, 2000, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) expressed its concerns about the fire response of certain Canned Subassemblies (CSAs). On August 3, 2000, we provided the Board a brief on the analysis of these concerns and followed with an interim report on October 31, 2000. In that interim report, we committed to providing a final report to fully address these concerns by March 31, 2001. However, Los Alamos National Laboratory decided the report required additional revisions, delaying distribution to the Board.

We will forward the report to you by May 15, 2001, after review by the National Nuclear Security Administration. If you would like a briefing on its conclusions or some other opportunity for dialogue with its authors, please contact me or have your staff contact David E. Beck at 202-586-4879 or Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

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:  
Mark Whitaker, S-3.1

