



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

August 1, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim response to your letter of June 28, 2001, which expressed concerns regarding the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) approval of a Justification for Continued Operations of W88 Disassembly and Inspection operations. NNSA senior management at Pantex and senior Board staff have discussed this issue during the Board visit to Pantex on July 24, 2001, which resulted in a better understanding of the Board's perspective and intent.

With this understanding, we will provide the 30-day report within 30 days from the date of this letter, in conjunction with the 60-day report. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879, or have your staff contact Dan Glenn of the Amarillo Area Office at 806-477-3182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Beck", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David E. Beck
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and
Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs

cc:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1
R. Glass, AL
D. Glenn, AAO
J. McConnell, DNFSB

