



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

August 17, 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:

In my June 15, 2001, letter about replacement of the Pantex Plant Fire Alarm System, the Board was advised that a copy of the approved program plan would be provided by July 31, 2001. The time required to develop a replacement schedule, integrated with facility availability, and to confirm adequate program controls has been longer than anticipated. Our new anticipated delivery date is September 7, 2001. We have provided your staff with a copy of the current draft and will provide them an advance copy of the final plan when submitted by the Field.

In my June 15 letter, I also advised you that we were proceeding with replacement of the central alarm monitoring portion of the system. This effort has been delayed by a failure of potential bidders to respond to the contractor's solicitation. BWXT is reviewing the specifications to see if a revised solicitation may be more successful. With our September 7 forwarding of the plan, we will advise you of our path forward for replacement of the central monitoring portion of the system.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

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

cc:
M. Whitaker, S.3- 1

