



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585  
May 21, 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:

This letter documents Defense Programs (DP) response plans regarding the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) letter of April 30, 2001, on the quality and adequacy of the authorization bases for the defense nuclear facilities at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). DP senior managers in Headquarters and at Y-12 met via teleconference on May 3, 2001, to plan our "path forward." Direction was given to prepare for a briefing to the Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs (DP-1) by June 15, 2001, and a briefing for the Board by no later than June 30, 2001. The briefs will be structured to address the following:

- a) technical resource requirements and actions to address both the short-term and long-term periods;
- b) actions required and/or taken to address the integration of hazards identification and analysis at Y12; and,
- c) actions required and the status of correcting the individual technical issues contained within the letter and Board Staff issue report.

If you have any questions concerning our approach for improving the authorization bases 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,

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

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S.3-1

