



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

May 6, 2002

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 letter is a followup response to my letter of January 23, 2002, which responded to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) November 26, 2001, letter addressing concerns in the maintenance program at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). The Board's November 26, 2001, letter requested a briefing on the achievements and outcomes of maintenance upgrade efforts such as backlog reduction, establishment of reliable maintenance schedules, tracking and reduction of equipment unavailability, tracking of maintenance history, and identification of maintenance for vital equipment.

As stated in the January 23, 2002 letter, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has continued to follow the progress of the Y-12 Maintenance Improvement Plan (MIP) and other areas of the maintenance process performance. Progress of the Y-12 MIP has been maintained and changes have been incorporated, where appropriate, to address additional details of maintenance improvements/initiatives. Staff of both the NNSA Y-12 Area Office and BWXT Y-12, L.L.C., have been in communication with your staff giving monthly updates regarding ongoing maintenance improvement activities, data collection, and plans status.

While significant progress has been made, further implementation is desired in order to demonstrate MIP effectiveness. Further, a review by your staff is planned to occur prior to the Board briefing. Therefore, we propose the briefing occur in June 2002. We will coordinate with your staff to arrange a specific date and time for the briefing.



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If there are questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Xavier Ascanio at (301) 903-3757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Beck', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

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

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S.3-1