



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 21, 2006

The Honorable A.J. Eggenberger
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you with regard to language included in the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report that directs the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to report jointly with the Department of Energy (DOE) to the congressional defense committees regarding our efforts to improve the timeliness of identification and resolution of technical differences in the development of design standards for DOE nuclear facilities. This report is to include recommendations, if any, for legislation that would strengthen and improve technical oversight of the Department's nuclear design and operational activities.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that DOE's point of contacts for the preparation of this joint report are Andrew Lawrence, Director, Office of Nuclear Safety and Environment and John Nichols, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Policy. Mr. Lawrence can be reached at andrew.lawrence@hq.doe.gov or (202) 586-6740. Mr. Nichols can be reached at john.nichols@hq.doe.gov or (301) 903-1018.

The Department looks forward to working with the Board in the preparation of this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.
Departmental Representative to the
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Office of Health, Safety and Security

