



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

October 26, 2000

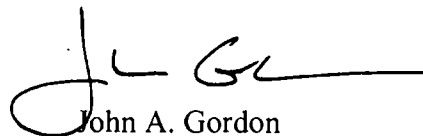
The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of August 30, 2000, the Board forwarded a report on their review of the preparations for resumption of the enriched uranium reduction process at the Y-12 Plant and requested a briefing on the resolution of the reported concern/issues prior to the conduct of the Department of Energy Operational Readiness Review for the process. Enclosed is a memorandum dated September 29, 2000, which commits to the requested briefing after the contractor has declared readiness for restart of the process. The readiness declaration is not expected prior to December 2000. This commitment was previously discussed with the Board staff. Our staff will coordinate the briefing with Board Site Representatives when readiness for resumption is achieved.

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

Sincerely,



John A. Gordon
Administrator

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



00 - 2104

United States Government

Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office

memorandum

DATE: September 29, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NADP-68:Rhyne

SUBJECT: **DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) ISSUES WITH Y-12
REDUCTION PROCESS**

TO:

Xavier Ascanio, Director of Site Operations, DP-24, GTN

The DNFSB letter dated August 30, 2000, transmits the Board's concerns with the restart of the Enriched Uranium Operations reduction process at Y-12. Following the contractor's completion of all restart activities and prior to the DOE Operational Readiness Review, the DNFSB would like to be briefed on restart actions taken by the contractor, and our resolution of those actions. Thus, this briefing will not be held until the contractor has declared readiness for restart. This briefing is anticipated to occur no earlier than December 2000. We will inform you when a specific date is established.

Direct any questions to Ken Rhyne at (865) 576-9901.

for. Kenneth D. Uusitalo
William J. Brumley
Assistant Manager
for Defense Programs

CC:
Phil Aiken, DP-24, GTN
Sarah Hartson, NADP-68, ORO
Dale Christenson, NADP-67, ORO
Terry Olberding, NADP-68, ORO