



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
 Washington, DC 20585

January 31, 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 a September 21, 2000, letter, the Board forwarded a classified report of a Board staff review of the "Y-12 W56 Dismantlement Campaign (U)." On November 18, 2000, the Department sent an interim response that committed to providing a response by December 8, 2000. In the interest of keeping the Board informed of progress, the following update is provided.

BWXT Y-12 has proposed changes to previous operating and safety plans for future dismantlement activities. The revised approach employs some engineered features to reduce reliance on administrative controls and uses existing dismantlement equipment and components for appropriate phases of the dismantlement activity. The Y-12 Area Office (YAO) has concurred with the contractor's recommendation to proceed on the revised path.

BWXT Y-12 expects to complete its safety analyses reflecting the revised approach February 9, 2001, and complete changes to authorization basis documents and operating procedures by March 2, 2001. Other key dates in the current schedule are: 1) BWXT Y-12 Readiness Assessment (RA) the week of March 26, 2001; 2) YAO RA the week of April 9, 2001; and 3) dismantlement activities starting the week of May 7, 2001.

BWXT Y-12 will be briefing members of the DNFSB staff, at the site, on the status of ongoing actions and the details of their revised approach for dismantlement activities the week of February 5, 2001. YAO expects to forward the response to the safety and technical issues previously identified by the DNFSB, and on the revised plan and schedule of actions by February 15, 2001, to Headquarters. Headquarters plans to review/approve and forward this additional detail to the Board by March 2, 2001.

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

Sincerely,



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

cc:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1
T. Gioconda, Acting DP-1
R. Erickson, DP-3
W. Brumley, YAO
J. Mitchell, BWXT Y-12
X. Ascanio, DP-24
E. Morrow, DP-40
P. Aiken, DP-24