

John T. Conway, Chairman
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Joseph J. DiNunno
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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99-0000732



March 25, 1999

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has reviewed the March 10, 1999, Department of Energy (DOE) Implementation Plan for the Board's Recommendation 98-1, *Integrated Safety Management*, dealing with the response of line management to issues identified by DOE's internal oversight organization. The Board accepts this Implementation Plan.

The Board is especially pleased by your strong commitment to the Implementation Plan and the tenets of Recommendation 98-1, as stated in your March 3, 1999, memorandum on Safety-Accountability and Performance. Your support and the high level of accountability you are demanding are key elements that need to be sustained if Recommendation 98-1 is to be successfully implemented. The Board would also like to commend the team that developed the Implementation Plan, and looks forward to working with DOE in the upgrade of this important element of the overall Integrated Safety Management program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Conway", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.