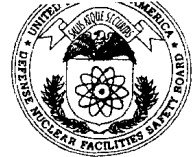


John T. Conway, Chairman  
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman  
John W. Crawford, Jr.  
Joseph J. DiNunno  
Herbert John Cecil Kouts

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004  
(202) 208-6400

97-0002743



August 26, 1997

The Honorable Federico F. Peña  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Peña:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your acceptance, dated July 14, 1997, of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 97-2, *Criticality Safety*. The Board is encouraged by your timely acceptance of the recommendation, in concert with the informative and productive initial briefings by your staff.

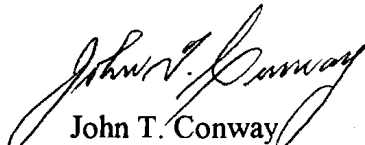
The Board would like the DOE 97-2 implementation plan to build upon the successful corrective actions taken in response to Recommendation 93-2, *The Need for Critical Experiment Capability*. A key to achieving this linkage is to establish funding authority and to recognize the organizational cross-cutting importance of this issue.

While you are reviewing the various organizational alternatives for implementation, we suggest that you consider one option that has a strong probability of success: Establish a responsible line manager at Headquarters, reporting directly to an Assistant Secretary with responsibility for leading this cross-cutting activity and for managing the DOE funds allocated for its accomplishment.

Closure of Recommendation 93-2 may be possible as long as mechanisms are in place to ensure that continued successes are captured in the implementation plan for Recommendation 97-2.

The Board has established a project team to work closely with your staff in the development of an implementation plan that will fully address the technical issues outlined in Recommendation 97-2, and looks forward to continued progress in this important area.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.