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**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20545

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

April 8, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been assigned the responsibility for responding to your March 14, 1997, letter regarding the issues with the Seamless Safety 21 (SS-21) process.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has chartered an Integrated Safety Process Task Team, which will include a review of the SS-21 process, to resolve issues regarding safety management at the Pantex Plant and within the DOE nuclear weapons complex. This task team includes broad representation from across the Defense Programs complex. Results of meetings of this group are routinely made available to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staff. I will provide you a complete report when we have finished our review.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 202-586-4879 or have your staff contact Marty Schoenbauer of my staff at 301-903-3489.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Ives".

Gene Ives  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Military Application  
and Stockpile Management  
Defense Programs