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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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96-0003938



October 1, 1996

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

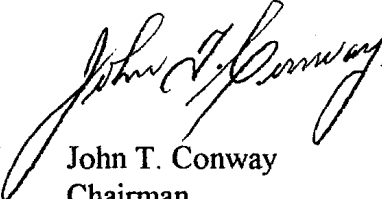
Mr. Donald W. Pearman, Jr., Associate Deputy Secretary for Field Management, in a letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) dated April 15, 1996, suggested closure of Board Recommendation 92-2 regarding the Facility Representative Program at the Department of Energy (DOE). Subsequently, the Board and its staff conducted a detailed review of outstanding issues under that Recommendation and DOE progress in implementing the Recommendation. In a letter dated July 22, 1996, the Board requested that Mr. Pearman, in his role as the assigned lead for the Facility Representative Program, discuss with the Board plans for closure of open items and the future of the program in preparation for the Board making a decision on closure of the Recommendation.

On September 17, 1996, Mr. Pearman briefed the Board as requested. Mr. Pearman addressed, among other issues, qualifications for acting/interim Facility Representatives, effective Facility Representative career planning, and optimal recruitment of Facility Representatives. Based on all of the aforementioned reviews and discussions, the Board has determined that the major purposes of Recommendation 92-2 have been met and, therefore, Recommendation 92-2 is closed.

Closure of this Recommendation in no way diminishes the Board's continuing interest in the success of the DOE Facility Representative Program. The Board's Site Representatives will continue to monitor the effectiveness of DOE Facility Representatives, and each site-wide program as a whole. The Board's staff will continue its oversight of the ongoing revision of DOE-STD-1063-93, *Establishing and Maintaining a Facility Representative Program at DOE Nuclear Facilities*. Further, the Board looks forward to receiving Facility Representative Program Performance Indicator Data, when it is collected each quarter by the Office of Field Management.

The Board notes that DOE's Facility Representatives are key links in the chain of safety personnel at defense nuclear facilities. Therefore, the Board will continue to follow progress of the program during its quarterly reviews with you, and in future discussions with Mr. Pearman.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mr. Donald W. Pearman, Jr.  
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.