



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 14, 1996

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:

Thank you for your February 28, 1996, letter concerning the Department's accelerated directives reduction effort and proposed rules related to nuclear safety within the Department of Energy Complex.

We appreciate the cooperation received from the Board and its staff to assure health and safety standards are maintained as we have gone through these efforts. The dialogue on these issues has resulted in improved directives and rulemaking proposals.

The Department remains committed to addressing the Board's concerns with respect to six of the new orders. It is my understanding that discussions between our staffs since your letter have been continuing.

We understand that the Board reserves the right to comment on all of the new orders and rules in light of crosswalks that track old requirements to new requirements. The final crosswalk--for Order 440.1--should be available for the Board's review by May 31, 1996.

We look forward to a continuing dialogue with the Board to ensure that the new orders and rules protect our workers, the public and environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazel R. O'Leary".

Hazel R. O'Leary