

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

May 18, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

This is in response to your letter of February 8, 1993, which accepts, under several conditions, the Department's Implementation Plan for Board Recommendation 92-6. The Department accepts the conditions discussed in your letter.

The Department of Energy Order and Standard on start-up and restart of nuclear facilities constitute key elements of the Department's response to recommendation 92-6.

The Operational Readiness Review prerequisites for order compliance assessment and the requirements to ensure Independence of senior team members are under review by my task force of senior Department experts. These issues will be clearly addressed In the Department of Energy Order and Standard.

The Department wants to ensure full integration and responsiveness to the conditions and considerations outlined in the Board's letter. Therefore, additional time will be necessary to complete the Department of Energy Order and Standard on start-up and restart of nuclear facilities: Both documents are planned for completion on September 15, 1993.

We will continue to keep you Informed on our progress through the bimonthly reporting process.

Sincerely,

***Hazel R. O'Leary***