



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 27, 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:

Your letter of January 21, 1993, forwarded the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-1 regarding Standards Utilization in Defense Nuclear Facilities.

The Department accepts the Board's Recommendation. We will conduct an analysis of operations and facilities at sites where we assemble, disassemble, and test nuclear weapons. The Department will: (1) review its Nuclear Safety Orders and Directives to determine applicability to those facilities and sites; (2) provide a clear explanation of the attributes of the Department's Nuclear Safety Orders and Nuclear Explosive Safety Orders and how they are applied by identifying those critical safety elements of operations and how those elements are addressed by each order and directive; (3) identify the areas of inconsistency or discontinuity between the sets of Nuclear Safety Orders and Nuclear Explosive Safety Orders, if any; (4) where appropriate, identify areas where the orders and directives can and should be strengthened; and (5) expedite its Order Compliance Review at the Pantex Plant.

The Acting Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs will develop the Department's Implementation Plan for this Recommendation by July 20, 1993. The Implementation Plan will provide specific milestones and dates for accomplishing the commitments described in the preceding paragraph.

Sincerely,


Hazel R. O'Leary