

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Joseph F. Bader
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004-2901
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March 31, 2005

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1203

Dear Senator Craig:

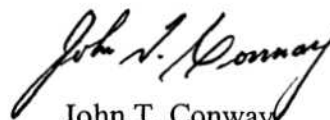
This is in furtherance of previous discussions Board Members had with your staff relative to your letter of October 29, 2004, in which you raised questions concerning the oversight activities of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) at the newly created Idaho National Laboratory.

In December 2004, Dr. R. Bruce Matthews and I met with Ms. Kristine Svinicki of your staff to discuss the Board's current health and safety oversight activities at the INEEL complex, and to specifically address the Department of Energy's (DOE) evolving plans for storage and subsequent processing of neptunium-237 in facilities that will become part of the new Idaho National Laboratory.

Please be assured that the Board is careful to conserve its limited resources in considering its health and safety oversight activities throughout the DOE nuclear complex, and therefore, carefully balances the need for oversight against the associated hazards of a specific activity. As committed to your staff, the Board intends to keep you fully apprised of any issues that could compromise public or worker health and safety related to DOE defense nuclear activities.

The Board Members look forward to working closely with you and your staff in ensuring that the public and the workers at the DOE Idaho complex are adequately protected.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman