

April 4, 2001

Mr. Leroy M. Duenes
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
MS 4112, Bldg. 621
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415-4112

Dear Mr. Duenes:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) would like to express appreciation for your attendance and participation in its public meeting of February 13, 2001. The focus of the public meeting was the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Implementation of Integrated Safety Management (95-2), Line Management Response to Safety Issues Identified by the Office of Oversight (98-1), and Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems (2000-2). Your comments and recommendation were welcomed and continue to receive serious consideration.

We would also like to applaud your commitment to worker participation in the safe operation of DOE facilities. It was gratifying to hear your statement and to know that you have the support and attention of the management of the site, both BWXT and DOE-Idaho. But it is most important that you have the support and attention of your fellow workers. We are aware that you have also been afforded the opportunity to share your experiences and commitment with the workforce at other sites and you have not hesitated to do so.

The year 2000 was marked by continued progress by DOE in upgrading its safety program. Ensuring safety, however, is a never-ending task so long as hazardous work must be done. The Board commends you on your contributions to the basic framework of "Doing Work Safely" in the past year and looks forward to your active participation in implementing future enhancements.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Ms. Beverly Ann Cook
Dr. Bernard L. Myers
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.