

June 21, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Abraham:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is pleased to note that Mr. John Eschenberg, formerly of the Savannah River Site, has been honored as the 2000 Department of Energy (DOE) Facility Representative of the Year. The Board has always considered the Facility Representative Program to be one of DOE's most useful and productive tools for maintaining the safety of the public and workers. The program has clearly contributed to improvements in the operation of your facilities.

Just as clearly, DOE has selected some of the very best of its engineers for this challenging assignment. The Board believes a successful tour as a Facility Representative is an excellent, perhaps indispensable, preparation for wider responsibility in DOE's management of its technical and industrial facilities. The Board is encouraged to learn that DOE managers at the Facility Representative Workshop held on May 15-17, 2001, voiced this same opinion and are seeking promotion opportunities and suitable follow-on assignments for this remarkable group of engineers.

We hope you will communicate to your area and site managers the importance of selecting and rewarding these exceptional and enthusiastic employees. Please pass on our best wishes to Mr. Eschenberg as he moves on to a new Facility Representative position at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.
Mr. John R. Eschenberg