

October 23, 2000

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has received your revised Implementation Plan for Board Recommendation 98-2, "*Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*," dated September 25, 2000. The Board is encouraged by the technically sound structure of the plan and exhorts the Department of Energy (DOE) to begin implementing it. However, the Board is not able to judge the overall acceptability of the plan because we do not have sufficient information concerning the details of its execution.

Therefore, the Board requests that DOE provide documentation and a briefing that demonstrate how the actions required in fiscal year 2001 to fulfill the commitments in the plan have been captured in work authorization directives for the Pantex Plant contractor and other appropriate weapon laboratories and contractors.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: General John A. Gordon
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.