

May 19, 2000

Thomas C. Poindexter, Esq.
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1400 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Dear Mr. Poindexter:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of May 11, 2000, advising the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) of the formation of the DOE Nuclear Regulation and Evaluation Group (DNREG). As we understand, this group is to be composed of senior Department of Energy (DOE) contractor personnel and your firm will serve to merge ideas and viewpoints on regulatory issues of contractor common interest and communicate them to DOE senior management.

You invited the Board to have a representative speak at your inaugural meeting on June 8, 2000. I thank you for the invitation, but do not believe it would be appropriate at this time for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to participate in your meeting. Perhaps later, when the group gets established and functioning and you are still interested in Board participation, further consideration may be in order.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman