

**The Deputy Secretary of Energy**

1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
(202) 586-5500 • FAX (202) 586-0148

May 4, 2000

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. ~~Chairman~~ <sup>John</sup>:

The Department acknowledges the concerns raised by the Board in the January 2000 Technical Report 25 – *Quality Assurance for Safety-Related Software at Department of Energy Defense Nuclear Facilities*. As stated in my February 9, 2000, letter to you, an adequate response is taking more than 60 days required for a report. We are working on a plan and will provide a report to the Board no later than June 2, 2000.

Although the Department has defined the relevant safety issues and has identified actions to address many of them, there are still some cross-cutting issues to be resolved before a plan can be finalized. In the meantime, we have begun development of a Software Quality Assurance Policy. The Policy will identify appropriate industry and regulatory standards and will provide the authority and basis for developing software quality assurance programs Department-wide.

The Department, through the Chief Information Officer, will continue to apprise the Board of progress on completing the report and follow-on deliverables.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. J. Glauthier".

T. J. Glauthier

RECEIVED  
00 MAY - 8 PM 3:39  
DNE SAFETY BOARD