



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

01-0001457  
Copied to All  
Board Members

August 17, 2001

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In my June 15, 2001, letter about replacement of the Pantex Plant Fire Alarm System, the Board was advised that a copy of the approved program plan would be provided by July 31, 2001. The time required to develop a replacement schedule, integrated with facility availability, and to confirm adequate program controls has been longer than anticipated. Our new anticipated delivery date is September 7, 2001. We have provided your staff with a copy of the current draft and will provide them an advance copy of the final plan when submitted by the Field.

In my June 15 letter, I also advised you that we were proceeding with replacement of the central alarm monitoring portion of the system. This effort has been delayed by a failure of potential bidders to respond to the contractor's solicitation. BWXT is reviewing the specifications to see if a revised solicitation may be more successful. With our September 7 forwarding of the plan, we will advise you of our path forward for replacement of the central monitoring portion of the system.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

David E. Beck  
Assistant Deputy Administrator  
for Military Application and  
Stockpile Operations  
Defense Programs

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S.3- 1

