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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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99-0001568



June 10, 1999

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

Dear Secretary Richardson:

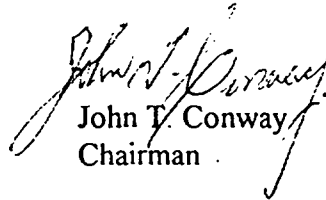
As a result of a slowdown in Order compliance throughout 1994, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued Recommendation 94-5, *Integration of DOE Safety Rules, Orders, and Other Requirements*, in December 1994. Recommendation 94-5 required the Department of Energy (DOE) to take strong action to ensure that there would be no relaxation of commitments made to achieving compliance with existing requirements in safety Orders while new proposed rules were being developed. The Secretary of Energy accepted Recommendation 94-5 in February 1995 and in July 1995 issued DOE's Implementation Plan for the recommendation.

In that Implementation Plan, DOE committed to delivering an approved, revised Functions, Authorities, and Responsibilities (FAR) Manual by early 1996. The Board subsequently strengthened its call for Integrated Safety Management programs by issuing Recommendation 95-2, *Safety Management*, in October 1995. The Implementation Plan for Recommendation 95-2 included a commitment to providing a revised FAR Manual, and added a requirement that "the Department roles and responsibilities in the FAR Manual . . . be consistent with changes in the safety management organization instituted pursuant to this Implementation Plan." During 1996 and 1997, various drafts of the DOE *Safety Management Functions, Responsibilities and Authorities Manual* (FRAM) were reviewed by the Board and its staff. An approved Level 1 corporate FRAM was issued in October 1997, and a draft revision was provided for the Board's review in October 1998. At its May 25, 1999, public meeting on Recommendation 95-2, the Board was informed that revisions to the Level 1 FRAMs are being prepared. The Board and its staff will review these FRAMs under the Recommendation 95-2 Implementation Plan.

The few remaining open commitments under Recommendation 94-5, associated with the conduct of seminars and workshops, are being subsumed in the ongoing implementation of

Recommendation 95-2. The Board therefore agrees that the remaining open issues from Recommendation 94-5 are adequately covered by the provisions of Recommendation 95-2, and hereby closes Recommendation 94-5.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.