



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585
November 22, 2004

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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:

The Sandia Site Office (SSO) has been working aggressively to respond to your letter regarding the adequacy of the safety basis for nuclear facilities at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). The SSO, along with SNL, are in the process of completing self-assessments in preparation for a National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Independent Review. The NNSA Independent Review had been scheduled for completion on December 7, 2004, to allow a final briefing to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) before December 24, 2004, which is within the 90 days, as requested by your letter. With the tragic and unexpected loss of William (Bill) T. Mullen, Technical Director, Nuclear Facilities & Safety Basis (NF&SB) at the SSO, the impact to the Site Office staff is significant. As a result, the Independent Review is being rescheduled to assure the SSO has adequate preparation time to address the issues raised by the DNFSB. To accommodate the SSO, I request a 30-day extension for a report and briefing to the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linton F. Brooks".

Linton F. Brooks
Administrator



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