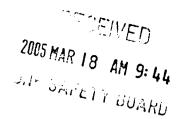


The Secretary of Energy Washington, DC 20585

March 14, 2005



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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of February 14, 2005, in which you forwarded the results of your review of the Department's Implementation Plan for Defense Board Recommendation 2004-1, Oversight of Complex High Hazard Nuclear Operations. The Department is committed to implementing this Recommendation and recognizes the importance of continued input and involvement from the Board and its staff in achieving this result.

The Department plans to revise the Implementation Plan by June 3, 2005. The revision will more fully set out the manner in which we will implement Recommendation 2004-1.

My leadership team is committed to accomplishing the actions to satisfy this Recommendation. Please provide any further feedback to me or to my responsible manager for this plan, Dr. Bruce Carnes, Associate Deputy Secretary. He will have full access to me, as needed to implement our plan.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman