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**Department of Energy**Richland Operations Office  
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Richland, Washington 99352RECEIVED  
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The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

## LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR STEVE STOKES

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, I would like to extend our appreciation to your staff member, Steve Stokes. Mr. Stokes was the Hanford Site Representative from March 2000 to October 2000, and the Hanford Site Cognizant Engineer from December 1998 to March 2000.

Mr. Stokes was thorough and professional, with his focus on resolving issues. He maintained his independence, yet stayed closely informed and involved with Hanford issues. He brought safety issues to our attention for expeditious resolution. The missions of both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board were furthered by his work at Hanford. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with him in his new role within your organization.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Klein  
Manager

cc: K. Fortenberry, DNFSB  
Technical Director  
M. B. Whitaker, S-3.1