

Department of Energy

National Nuclear Security Administration Washington, DC 20585

JAN 0 9 2001

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Following a Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board staff visit to Los Alamos in August 1999, you expressed concerns in a September 22, 1999, letter and attached Staff Issue Paper. These concerns included sitewide requirements for electrical and instrumentation control, lightning protection and fire protection systems, and other previously identified issues. Attached is a compilation of information which documents the work thus far. The Los Alamos Area Office has been coordinating this activity and will continue working with the Laboratory and your staff to resolve these issues.

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Over the past year, there have been many interactions between the Department and the Laboratory to reach agreement on an acceptable response. These interactions have delayed development of a response; however, we have kept your staff informed about progress in all of the areas of concern cited in the letter and Staff Issue Paper. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Dave Gurulé at the Los Alamos Area Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

40 David H. Crandall

Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator for Research, Development and Simulation Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc (w/encl): M. Whitaker, S-3.1

