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**The Secretary of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

March 10, 1999

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to notify you, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), that the Department of Energy will require an additional 45 days to transmit the implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 98-2, "Safety Management at the Pantex Plant." The additional time will be beneficial for both the Department and the DNFSB to assure the implementation plan represents a comprehensive approach to this complex issue.

Mr. Gene Ives, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Management, will further discuss the implementation plan with you on March 9, 1999. Together, we can then determine the appropriate commitments for incorporation into the implementation plan. The implementation plan will be provided to the DNFSB by April 23, 1999.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Richardson

