

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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:

The Secretary has asked me to respond to your letter of January 8, 1999, which expressed concerns that the Department may not be placing priority emphasis on ensuring Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance of all safety-related systems. We share these concerns and, in partnership with the Office of Environment, Safety and Health, we are in the process of collecting Y2K compliance status information on all of the safety-related systems complex-wide. This effort is addressing systems identified as mission-critical as well as nonmission-critical at all DOE sites, not just those at defense nuclear facilities.

Due to the scope of this effort, we will not have all of the data necessary to respond to your request until the first week of March 1999. At that time we will provide to you an inventory of the safety-related systems at defense nuclear facilities and the schedule for the remediation, testing, and independent verification and validation for each system. In addition, we are expanding our Headquarters Year 2000 database to permit us to identify and track the status of all safety-related systems.

If you have any questions please contact me at (202) 586-0166, or your staff may contact John Przysucha, the DOE Y2K Program Manager, at (202) 586-8836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Gilligan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John M. Gilligan