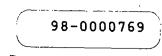


Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JAN 1 6 1998



RECEIVED 98 JAN 21 AM 10: 02 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:

This is in response to your December 31, 1997 letter to Secretary Peña concerning safety issues at Building 332, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). A number of issues were raised in the enclosure to your letter. We are aware of these issues and are in agreement with your concerns. Senior staff from Defense Programs, the Oakland Operations Office and LLNL met at the laboratory during the week of January 12, 1998 to jointly negotiate a path forward to meet all Board expectations. Members of your staff observed the meeting.

The Department of Energy (DOE) will provide a briefing to the Board on the corrective action plan as soon as it is finalized to the satisfaction of your staff and DOE management. Thank you for your observations related to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Robin Staffin Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Development Defense Programs

cc: Mark Whitaker, S-3 1

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