

April 4, 2001

Mr. Steve Polston
Chairman
Energy Facility Contractors Group
815 S. Rose Street
Escondido, California 92027

Dear Mr. Polston:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has long been a strong advocate for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) contractors sharing lessons learned and best practices to improve the safety of activities in the DOE complex. The Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) actions in this area to provide a forum for contractors to work together to address significant issues facing the DOE complex has been commendable. The Board is especially pleased with the establishment of specific working groups, including the Integrated Safety Management Working Group and the Safety Analysis Working Group, to focus on issues the Board believes requires the combined talents of the DOE contractors to address.

The Board noted continued progress in 2000 by DOE, as its contractors have upgraded their safety programs using the concept of Integrated Safety Management as the basic framework. The work of EFCOG in contributing to the progress to date would not have been possible without the dedication of many of EFCOG employees who have responded to the responsibility assigned to them for "Doing Work Safely." The EFCOG is commended for their contributions for this continued improvement and is urged to continue such efforts.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.