

[SOE LETTERHEAD]

November 22, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the Department's Quality Assurance Improvement Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities. This plan describes the Department's actions to improve implementation of quality assurance as practiced by the Department of Energy and its contractors in the design, procurement, construction, operation, and maintenance of its vital safety systems. The Department appreciates the Board's technical reports and insights into the quality assurance program improvements. Safety-related software quality assurance will be addressed separately in response to your Recommendation 2002-1 issued on September 23, 2002.

We will keep you and your staff informed of our progress in meeting the commitments in this Improvement Plan. Mr. Raymond Hardwick in the Office of Environment, Safety and Health, at (301) 903-4244, is available to answer any questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham

[Enclosure](#)

cc:

M. Whitaker, S-3.1