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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585
June 4, 2001

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 2, 2000, the Board expressed its concerns about the adequacy of the Fire Hazard Analysis of certain Canned Subassemblies (CSAs) in abnormal fire environments and requested the Department of Energy to evaluate the implications of the hazard presented by these CSAs in a fire environment and to determine what short-term actions, including potential compensatory measures, are necessary to mitigate the consequences of this hazard.

On August 3, 2000, we provided a brief on these issues, and on October 31, 2000, we provided an interim report. The final report is enclosed. The Albuquerque Operations Office's (AL) memorandum forwarding the report summarizes its conclusions and actions taken in response to them. Some standoff distances in the satellite facilities have been increased pending completion of further analysis of full-up weapon configurations in satellite facilities. I concur with AL's recommendations. We will forward you that analysis by July 15, 2001.

If you have further questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. David E. Beck at 202-586-4879 or Mr. Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

THOMAS F. GIOCONDA
Brigadier General, USAF
Acting Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

Enclosures

cc w/o enclosures:
Mark Whitaker, S-3.1

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