

Department of Energy

National Nuclear Security Administration Washington, DC 20585

April 20, 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 Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) expressed its concerns about the fire response of certain Canned Subassemblies (CSAs). On August 3, 2000, we provided the Board a brief on the analysis of these concerns and followed with an interim report on October 31, 2000. In that interim report, we committed to providing a final report to fully address these concerns by March 31, 2001. However, Los Alamos National Laboratory decided the report required additional revisions, delaying distribution to the Board.

We will forward the report to you by May 15, 2001, after review by the National Nuclear Security Administration. If you would like a briefing on its conclusions or some other opportunity for dialogue with its authors, please contact me or have your staff contact David E. Beck at 202-586-4879 or Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

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

cc:

Mark Whitaker, S-3.1