



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 21, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your November 12, 1997, letter forwarding comments and concerns about the Department's Directives System. With the help of your General Counsel and staff, DOE Order 251.1A, Directives System, and its associated DOE Manual 251.1-1A, have been revised and issued to address your concerns and provide the necessary assurances that safety is maintained whenever DOE policies, requirements, and responsibilities are developed, reviewed, approved, and disseminated throughout the Department.

We recognize that the establishment and maintenance of an integrated set of safety and health directives provide the essential foundation for integrated safety management. Once established, the applicable safety requirements are then implemented by line management as appropriate to ensure work is performed safely.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and your staff on this effort. If you have any questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Howard Landon regarding the Directives System at (202) 586-6344, or Dick Crowe at (202) 586-1418 with regards to the Department's integrated safety management effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Federico Peña".

Federico Peña

cc:
Mark Whitaker, S-3.1