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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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February 9, 1998

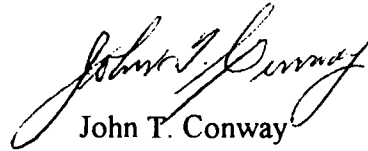
The Honorable Federico Peña
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Peña:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has received Assistant Secretary Alvin L. Alm's letter of January 15, 1998, responding to the Board's October 30, 1997, letter that identified health and safety issues associated with ventilation confinement systems at defense nuclear facilities. Upon review of the Department of Energy's (DOE) letter and its attachment, the Board would like to commend DOE for acknowledgment of the issues raised by the Board and its forthright plans for addressing them.

We look forward to being able in the future to report to you as favorably on other safety problem that may be addressed by the Board and responded to by DOE.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.