

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

August 23, 1995

Rear Admiral Charles J. Beers, USN
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application and Stockpile Support
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Admiral Beers:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) commends you for your exceptional performance as the Department of Energy's (DOE) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Applications and Stockpile Support (DASMSS) from August 1993 to September 1995. During a time of great change in the nuclear weapons complex, you displayed outstanding leadership across the full spectrum of your responsibilities.

You were one of the primary drivers in implementing several portions of the Board's Recommendation 93-1, *Utilization of Standards in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex*. Your efforts were instrumental in ensuring that the level of safety assurance provided by standards applicable to weapons complex was at least as rigorous as that applied to other DOE defense nuclear facilities.

In addition, you were at the forefront in correcting deficiencies with the highly important Nuclear Explosive Safety Study (NESS) process. This process is the primary method by which DOE evaluates the safety of various operations involving nuclear explosives. Your commitment and detailed technical management led to a comprehensive review of the NESS process. In order to correct identified deficiencies, you promulgated interim guidance on conducting these studies--greatly strengthening the process until the applicable DOE Order is revised.

Your leadership in the area of implementing an appropriate level of formality of operations has been crucial to improvements seen at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas. You have also provided outstanding leadership and management acumen to the task of resolving the problems with conduct of operations and compliance with criticality safety requirements at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The Board appreciates the technical competence and leadership you have displayed; it is exactly what the Atomic Energy Act anticipated in a senior military officer in the DASMSS position. The Board wishes you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Charles B. Curtis
The Honorable Victor H. Reis
Mr. Mark Whitaker