



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

October 15, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim reply to your letter of September 23, 2002, to the Administrator concerning fire protection at the Pantex Plant.

In your letter, you advised that you would appreciate an update on the National Nuclear Security Administration's efforts to address the noted deficiencies and to improve the fire protection program. The Director, Office of Amarillo Site Operations, will work with your Pantex Site representative to provide this update via a video conference to be held prior to October 31, 2002.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood at 301-903-8303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Beck".

David E. Beck
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Military Application and
Stockpile Operations
Defense Programs

cc:

✓ M. Whitaker, S-3.1
T. Dwyer, DNFSB
A. Matteucci, DNFSB
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