



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585
October 30, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Commitment 4.2.3.2 of the Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 2002-1 requires the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to establish a schedule by October 31, 2003, to complete the identification, selection, and assessment of safety system software and firmware at its nuclear facilities.

Similarly, Commitment 4.2.4.2 of the Plan requires NNSA to establish a schedule by October 31, 2003, to complete the assessment of the processes in place to ensure that safety software currently used to support the analysis and design of its nuclear facilities is adequate. We are requesting an additional 45 days to meet these two commitments.

Our Headquarters and Site Offices are currently developing supplemental guidance to the Criteria Review and Approach Documents issued by the Office of Environment, Safety and Health to facilitate the development of schedules and conduct of assessments in a timely and efficient manner. We plan to finalize the site-specific schedules in a workshop at the Nevada Site Office on November 13-14, 2003. We are inviting DNFSB staff to participate in the workshop. We will provide the site-specific schedules to you by December 15, 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Rabi Singh of my staff at (301) 903-5864.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everet H. Beckner".

Everet H. Beckner
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

cc:

B. Cook, EH-1
M. Whitaker, DR-1

