



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

May 23, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Ambassador Brooks has asked me to respond to your March 25, 2003, letter regarding Software Quality Assurance (SQA) deficiencies at the Pantex site. We understand and concur with your position.

The enclosed two BWXT letters outline actions to improve the SQA for the Integrated Electronic Procedures and the Move Right System, including independent verification and validation efforts. We have evaluated the actions proposed and believe that they will address your concerns. We will keep your site representative informed of BWXT's progress in completing the actions of this plan and will advise you of our assessment of their effectiveness after all actions are complete. If actions have not been completed by February 28, 2004, we will provide a status report and a revised plan.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood at (301) 903-8303 or Steve Erhart at (806) 477-6150.

Sincerely,

Everet H. Beckner
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

2 Enclosures

cc w/enclosures:
J. McConnell, DNFSB
W. Andrews, DNFSB
M. Whitaker, DR
D. Glenn, PXSO

Enclosure 1

Enclosure 2

