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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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September 15, 1999

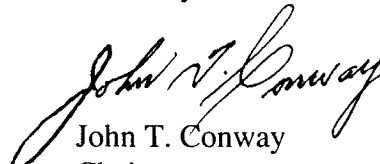
The Honorable T. J. Glauthier
Deputy Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Mr. Glauthier:

Many aspects of the Department of Energy (DOE) defense nuclear operations are not unique, with substantial expertise residing in organizations outside the defense nuclear complex. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is aware of two particular organizations with whom DOE has established contractual arrangements such that technical expertise on certain matters can be made available: the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). However, the Board has seen little evidence that these arrangements have led to the successful tapping of this outside expertise by DOE, particularly the contractor and DOE line managers. The Board suggests you have these arrangements reviewed to see how they might be more effectively used by DOE. The Board believes these could be fruitful associations, especially if this expertise is tapped by DOE and contractor line and field management.

The Board would like to be informed of the results of your review.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.