



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

October 17, 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:

In your August 14, 2003, letter you requested clarification of the July 11, 2003, report from the Secretary of Energy on High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters. Specifically you asked for “... a clarification of the EM and NNSA responses for habitability-related High Efficiency Particulate (HEPA) filters within the next 60 days. For each EM and NNSA site, please identify whether any HEPA filtered ventilation systems exist for the protection of personnel who must shelter or continue operations in nuclear or non-nuclear facilities (including emergency operations centers) following an accident in a nearby nuclear facility. For those sites where such ventilation systems exist, please identify the QA testing program for HEPA filters used in those ventilation systems.”

The clarifications provided by each NNSA site are attached. In summary, the Sandia Site Office, Kansas City Site Office, Livermore Site Office, and Nevada Site Office, as well as the NNSA portions of the Savannah River Site Office, do not currently have habitability-related HEPA filters. The Pantex site has identified three facilities whose HEPA filters serve limited habitability functions. The Y-12 site has such filters only in its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Los Alamos Site Office has these filters in its EOC and three other facilities and is taking steps to implement fully the Secretary’s June 4, 2001, direction concerning HEPA filters in habitability applications. The enclosed site reports provide additional details about the facilities and the associated Quality Assurance Testing Programs.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Underwood of my staff at (301) 903-8303 or have your staff contact the points of contact indicated in each site letter.

Sincerely,

Everet H. Beckner  
Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

Enclosures



cc w/enclosures:

M. Whitaker, DR-1

J. Mangeno, NA-3.6

Manager, Sandia Site Office

Manager, Kansas City Site Office

Manager, Pantex Site Office

Manager, Livermore Site Office

Manager, Nevada Site Office

Manager, Y-12 Site Office

Manager, Savannah River Site Office

Manager, Los Alamos Site Office