

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

May 18, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On February 6, 1994, the Department of Energy accepted Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-6 regarding access to nuclear weapons expertise. The Department's implementation plan for Recommendation 93-6 is due to the Board on May 18, 1994.

We recognize that the loss of nuclear weapons expertise and capability is a serious concern requiring attention. The Department has developed the stockpile stewardship program which, in addition to other elements, contains plans for activities to address the concerns identified in Recommendation 93-6. In addition, a senior Headquarters manager from Defense Programs will be designated to manage the Recommendation 93-6 implementation plan, and a meeting with key field and laboratory personnel will be convened to develop an integrated approach. Participation by the Board staff in this meeting will be requested.

In accordance with section 315(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2286d(e)), the Department will require a 45-day extension for submitting the Recommendation 93-6 implementation plan. This extension is necessary to ensure development of an integrated and effective approach to all of the issues. The implementation plan will be delivered to the Board no later than July 2, 1994.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary