



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

July 7, 1995

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your April 5, 1995, letter, which raised certain concerns with the Department's implementation of Recommendation 93-6, **Maintaining Access to Nuclear Weapons Expertise in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex.**

In February 1994 the Department of Energy accepted Recommendation 93-6. Subsequently, the Department developed an implementation plan designed to retain access to and identify and capture the unique knowledge and skills of individuals involved in disassembly, modification, and testing of nuclear weapons.

In an effort to address the types of concerns you raised and to refine the Department's method of identifying and capturing this unique knowledge, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs conducted an Executive-Level Summit to focus management attention on Recommendation 93-6 and determine the effective course of action. This Summit, conducted on April 6, 1995, reached the conclusion that a revision to the Implementation Plan was necessary. The forthcoming revised Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-6 will capitalize on activities that have been initiated either in response to the recommendation or other related programs. For example, the Department's **Seamless Safety for the 21st Century Program** provides project direction to identify the skills and knowledge required to meet the intent of Recommendation 93-6.

I have asked the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs to ensure that a revised draft Implementation Plan, will be completed within 30 days of this letter. This plan will address the intent of Recommendation 93-6 and the concerns expressed in your April 5, 1995 letter.

One of the specific concerns raised in your letter was the removal of administrative obstacles to gain access to retirees having expertise related to weapons. Enclosed is Department of Energy Notice 3131.1, which will allow the Department to gain access to retirees as required. The concerns expressed in the remaining three examples cited in the Board's April 5, 1995 letter will be addressed in the revised Implementation Plan.

Sincerely



Hazel R. O'Leary

Enclosure