



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 5, 1998

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:

Your letter of December 5, 1997, requested a report within 90 days evaluating the capability of the current Capabilities Maintenance and Improvement Project program management at both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The report was to focus on four areas: 1) organization and personnel; 2) life-cycle analysis; 3) safety design criteria; and 4) project management controls.

Both the DOE and LANL have instituted changes and identified changes to be made which will improve program management. A report was prepared; however, recent discussions with your staff have indicated that it does not align with the DNFSB's expectations. I am, therefore, holding the report pending further discussions.

We are meeting with your staff March 11, 1998, to gain clarification on what is required to provide an acceptable report. Subject to the results of those discussions, I will then provide a date by which we can complete the report.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Mitchell of my staff at 301-903-3085.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Ives", written over a printed name.

Gene Ives
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Military Application and
Stockpile Management
Defense Programs

