



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 16, 2002

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Chairman Conway:

Thank you for your November 4, 2002, letter regarding the proposed Department of Energy handbook *Integration of Multiple Hazard Analysis*. The Office of Environment, Safety and Health will continue to promote the concept of linking our varied and multiple hazards analyses that our contractors perform under the Integrated Safety Management model. We are committed to improving our Integrated Safety Management processes, where practicable.

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health has been working in collaboration with the Energy Facility Contractors Group/Chemical Safety Topical Committee, and your staff to develop the draft handbook. This group has undertaken the difficult task of bringing together, in an integrated and transparent manner, the multiple and varied forms of hazards analyses that our contractors perform. We will endeavor to seek continuous improvement in this regard.

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health staff will continue to communicate with your staff on this topic as we progress in implementing the concepts contained in the draft handbook. The Office of Environment, Safety and Health is in the process of finalizing an agreement for starting two lessons-learned projects that would test the handbook's concepts and feedback lessons learned for improving the handbook.

If you or your staff have any further questions or input, please contact Ms. Beverly A. Cook, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, at (202) 586-6151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Abraham".

Spencer Abraham

