



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

June 7, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate your letter of April 29, 1999, concerning the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program Failure Data Experience Award.

Our efforts to achieve an effective integrated safety management system throughout the Department require that the feedback and improvement function be vital and comprehensive. Mr. Tom Rotella has provided the leadership, vision, and energy to make the Department's participation in the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program rise to the level that was envisioned when integrated safety management was initiated. I am proud of this achievement and consider it to be further evidence that integrated safety management is evolving corporately, as it must.

I can assure you that Mr. Rotella's performance will be used as an example of what can be achieved as we proceed with my safety initiatives. It is my intent that the plaque recognizing this achievement is prominently displayed in the Headquarters' lobby as a reminder of two facts. First, this Department can and should be the best in the government. Second, individuals at the Department of Energy, such as Tom Rotella, are leading, achieving, and being recognized for it as we strive to be the best.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson

