

The Secretary of Energy Washington, DC 20585

October 28, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed are changes to the Department of Energy's implementation plan in response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 98-2 and an Implementation Plan with these changes inserted.

The changes to Revision 1 of the plan update several milestones for existing commitments to reflect changes in programmatic priorities and an increased understanding of the effort required to meet the commitments. The plan also establishes a new commitment to accelerate implementation of tooling enhancements for the W78 and W88 weapon disassembly programs to the greatest extent possible. The Department remains committed to effective and efficient implementation of Seamless Safety for the 21st Century at the Pantex Plant.

We are confident that the updated plan will achieve the objectives of Recommendation 98-2. If further information is desired, please contact me or Ambassador Linton Brooks, Acting Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, at (202) 586-5555.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure