



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

February 25, 2004

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As I have told the Board, I became convinced after reading the report of the Gehman Commission investigating the tragedy to the Space Shuttle Columbia that many of the report's insights were relevant to the operation of facilities within the National Nuclear Security Administration. I, therefore, chartered a Task Force under the leadership of Brigadier General Ron Haeckel, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, to review the Columbia Accident Investigation Board report and provide recommendations. I promised you that I would make a copy of General Haeckel's report available once it was completed.

A copy of the report is enclosed. While I am still reviewing the specific recommendations, I anticipate adopting many of them. When I have completed my review, I will provide the Board with a summary of those I have adopted and my rationale for not adopting any I chose to reject or modify.

I am proud of the work of the Task Force and appreciative of the time, energy, and commitment they have devoted to producing this report. I believe their efforts demonstrate that, while there remains much work to do, there is strong support for an improved safety culture within NNSA.

I hope you and the Board find the report useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. F. Brooks", is written over the typed name.

Linton F. Brooks
Administrator

Enclosure



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper