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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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June 28, 1994

The Honorable Victor H. Reis  
Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs  
Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Reis:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) and its staff continue to review the analyses used to determine the probability of an aircraft crash into the Pantex Zone 4 storage magazines. In October 1993, the DNFSB requested the Department of Energy (DOE) to prepare a report providing additional information on several technical issues related to the analyses. The DNFSB and its staff have reviewed the report provided by DOE on January 4, 1994. On May 9-11, 1994, two members of the DNFSB staff met with your staff and contractors to discuss several issues in the DNFSB letter, specifically the factors affecting the probability of a crash and the adequacy of analysis documentation.

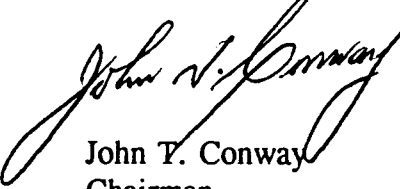
During the review the DNFSB Staff was presented with additional information that indicated the probability of an aircraft crash in Zone 4 is greater than the value in the DOE approved Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). Of particular concern to the DNFSB is the observation that the aircraft crash frequency data used in the FSAR do not accurately account for military aircraft overflights of Zone 4.

DOE Order 5480.21, *Unreviewed Safety Questions*, requires a safety evaluation be prepared when an analytical error, omission, or inadequacy presents the potential for an Unreviewed Safety Question. The DNFSB believes that this process is a technically satisfactory methodology for quickly resolving whether the additional information identified during the review has an impact on the DOE approved authorization basis, and therefore the safety of Zone 4.

The DNFSB requests that you consider this information to determine if an Unreviewed Safety Question exists. Please inform the DNFSB of the results of your review when they are available.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: The Honorable Tara O'Toole, EH-1  
Dr. D. Pearman, Acting FM-1  
Mr. Mark Whitaker, Acting EH-6  
Mr. Bruce Twining, Albuquerque Operations Office