

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
Edwin G. Case
Lawford, Jr.
John Cecil Kouts

90:1084

June 8, 1990

Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Admiral Watkins:

By law, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is required to

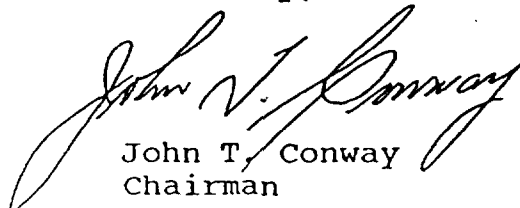
"... review and evaluate the content and implementation of the standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear facilities of the Department of Energy (including all applicable Department of Energy orders, regulations, and requirements) at each Department of Energy defense nuclear facility...." [Section 312(1), Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended]

In its review and evaluation, the Board has enlisted the assistance of the MITRE Corporation, and will be comparing standards used by Department of Energy (DOE) with those which govern the licensing and regulation of commercial nuclear facilities.

As a first step, the Board directed MITRE to examine the content of applicable DOE Orders and supplements issued by the Savannah River Operations Office and, in evaluating their content, to compare them with similar Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements. A draft report has been prepared and is presently under review. The Board is providing DOE advance notice of our intent to release the report and an opportunity to review and comment on it. We are also providing NRC an opportunity to review the draft report.

We intend to release the report to the public on June 27, 1990. If you wish to have DOE comments appended to the report, when released, please arrange to have them submitted to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board by June 25, 1990.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman