

[SOE LETTERHEAD]

October 29, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

In my July 23, 1993, letter to you, I indicated that the Department of Energy had accepted Recommendation 93-3 that deals with improving the technical capability of personnel associated with defense nuclear facilities programs. As part of our acceptance, I indicated we would issue by October 31, 1993, a policy statement that reinforces the Department's commitment to improving the technical excellence of its staff.

With full support and maximum participation of our stakeholders, we developed a policy that expands the appropriate Department of Energy core value statements and, specifically, commits us to improving the capabilities of our staff. Enclosed is a copy of our technical excellence policy.

We consider Recommendation 93-3 a high priority and are hopeful that the issuance of this policy will contribute to achieving technical excellence.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary

Enclosure

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE POLICY

The Department of Energy community, in order to successfully accomplish the Department's mission, must be technically competent and must continuously strive for technical excellence. Therefore, today and in the future:

- We will identify where technical expertise is needed and commit resources to support technical excellence.
- We will share technical resources in support of excellence.
- We will develop, maintain, and enhance technical knowledge, skills, and abilities through planned education, training, and other opportunities.
- We will provide a challenging and rewarding environment that is conducive to the retention of technical expertise.
- We will recruit technically capable individuals who share Department of Energy core values.
- We will regularly evaluate our success in achieving technical excellence in the Department of Energy community.