



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 18, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On September 27, 1994, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board issued Recommendation 94-4, dealing with deficiencies in Criticality Safety at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant. The Department accepts the recommendation.

The Department has initiated actions to resolve nuclear criticality safety and conduct of operations deficiencies at the Y-12 Plant. Shutdown nuclear operations will not resume until all necessary corrective and compensatory measures are in place. The Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs has provided, under separate cover, a plan detailing specific requirements for restart of operations, as well as a report explaining how the deficiencies remained undetected.

In addition, the Department will develop an implementation plan to: 1) evaluate compliance with Operational Safety Requirements and Criticality Safety Approvals; 2) comprehensively review the Y-12 Plant's nuclear criticality safety program; 3) assess the current level of conduct of operations at the Y-12 Plant; 4) evaluate the experience, training, and performance of key Department of Energy and contractor personnel involved in safety-related activities at the Y-12 Plant; and 5) correct any identified deficiencies.

We will work closely with you and your staff to develop a responsive Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan will be forwarded to you in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 22864. The Implementation Plan will provide specific milestones for accomplishing the commitments described in the preceding paragraph.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Hazel R. O'Leary in cursive script.
Hazel R. O'Leary