



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 9, 1994

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 316(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2286e(b)) requires the Department of Energy to submit a written report annually to Congress concerning the Department's activities with regard to Recommendations received from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. We are pleased to enclose for your information the Department's annual report for calendar year 1993.

The Department is committed to cooperate fully with the Board and provide ready access to each defense nuclear facility. We recognize the important role the Board has played in identifying significant safety related issues at our defense nuclear facilities.

We believe that the Department has begun to improve its level of performance during 1993. Nevertheless, we recognize that a need for significant improvement remains. I am determined that the Department develop a more disciplined approach to making commitments to the Board and coordinate the many corrective actions within the Department more effectively. We also recognize that the Department must more effectively evaluate our outstanding commitments to the Board in terms of management focus and expenditure of resources required. The Annual Report describes specific initiatives underway within the Department to address these matters.

An important area where our progress has been unsatisfactory in 1993 involves implementation of the Board's Recommendation 90-2 concerning Codes and Standards. We began a renewed initiative in early 1994 to develop a consistent and effective approach to Recommendation 90-2 in a timely manner.



In calendar year 1993, the Board issued six Recommendations, five of which the Department accepted. The Department accepted the sixth Recommendation on February 2, 1994. The Department is implementing corrective action or is developing Implementation Plans for each of these six Recommendations. Progress continues within the Department in completing actions required under the Implementation Plans for the eleven outstanding Recommendations issued prior to 1993. Completion of the Implementation Plans for certain Recommendations will require multi-year efforts. In addition, the Department concluded all actions necessary to implement two Recommendations in 1993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hazel R. O'Leary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Hazel R. O'Leary

Enclosure