

[SOE LETTERHEAD]

August 11, 1997

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:

This is to notify you, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286d(e), that the Department of Energy will require an additional 45 days to transmit the implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 97-1 concerning the safe storage of uranium-233 material. A draft implementation plan was prepared by a Task Team (reporting to the Assistant Secretaries for Defense Programs and Environmental Management, in coordination with other affected Headquarters and Field offices) but requires more detail.

Working with your staff, we have planned a workshop later this month to develop the next level of details for an integrated program to safely manage uranium-233. Together, we can then determine the appropriate commitments for incorporation into the implementation plan for Recommendation 97-1. The implementation plan will be provided to the Board by September 25, 1997.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña