



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 22, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your October 7, 1997, letter forwarding comments on the Department's Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manuals (FRAMs). The appropriate Departmental managers are available to discuss with the Board how the current line and oversight functions and responsibilities are reflected in these documents. I have approved the enclosed Department FRAM that directs all Department elements to further develop and maintain documentation defining delegation of authority for safety management functions within their organizations.

The Department considers the FRAMs to be "living documents" that will be periodically updated and improved. We will carefully consider all of your comments and observations and the Department looks forward to further interaction with the Board on this matter. The Department's Safety Management Implementation Team will guide the implementation and improvements to these documents.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Richard Crowe, Director, Safety Management Implementation Team at (202) 586-1418.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Federico Peña".

Federico Peña

Attachment