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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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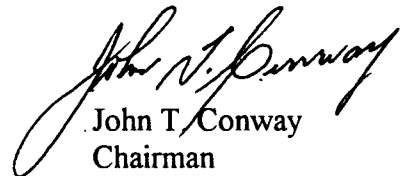
May 14, 1998

The Honorable Federico Peña
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Peña:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued Recommendation 97-1 so that the Department of Energy (DOE) would address safety concerns associated with the safe storage of uranium-233 (U-233), including the condition of both the U-233 packages (material form, quantities, and containers) and the storage facilities. DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 97-1 committed to providing initial site assessment reports to serve as interim reports addressing both of these concerns for those sites storing significant quantities of U-233. These reports have been provided by three major sites: Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Board is pleased that these commitments were met on schedule and also with the overall quality of the reports. The Board and its staff have reviewed these three initial site assessment reports. The Board's staff will provide comments to the DOE 97-1 Technical Team for consideration in finalizing the site assessment reports.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Elizabeth A. Moler
Mr. J. M. Wilczynski
Mr. E. G. Cumesty
Mr. Bruce G. Twining
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.