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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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December 16, 1999

The Honorable Bill Richardson  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) was pleased to have been briefed by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology and his staff on the status of the implementation of the Board's Recommendation 95-1, *Improved Safety of Cylinders Containing Depleted Uranium*. The Board believes the Department of Energy (DOE) has met all of the commitments in the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 95-1 and considers the recommendation closed.

The Board is particularly impressed by DOE's use of the systems engineering process to develop a workable and technically justifiable cylinder management program, which is now being used to govern the maintenance and surveillance of the cylinders. Although concerned that funding was not available for painting of cylinders during 1999, the Board is pleased that DOE has committed to continuing implementation of the cylinder management program as part of its accelerated conversion program.

Even though Recommendation 95-1 is now closed, the Board will continue to monitor the long-term storage of the cylinders and the eventual conversion of the depleted uranium hexafluoride to a stable form.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.