



**The Secretary of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

August 21, 2000

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
624 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
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 (Board) Recommendation 2000-2 concerning configuration management of vital safety systems. A draft implementation plan was prepared by a Writing Team (reporting to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, in coordination with other affected Headquarters and Field offices) but requires more detail regarding how the Department assesses the condition of vital safety systems.

My staff will continue to work with the Board to determine the appropriate commitments for incorporation into the implementation plan for Recommendation 2000-2. The implementation plan will be provided to the Board by October 5, 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson

