



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 12, 2000

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to the May 1999, Technical Report 23, *HEPA Filters Used in the Department of Energy's Hazardous Facilities*, the Department committed the Secretarial Safety Council to examine the issue of exchange of information concerning ventilation filtration technology. In December 1999, a working group was formed to discuss the issue.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Air Cleaning conference is scheduled for September 2000, in Richland, Washington. The Department recognizes that conferences provide an important venue for exchange of technical information, and is providing the use of the Federal Auditorium and associated logistical assistance to the conference organizers in support of the conference. Our goal is to continue to help the conference organizers maintain the quality of the conference and maximize attendance. We anticipate that both federal and contractor personnel will actively participate and provide support through presentation of technical papers and by taking part in panel discussions.

The Department and its contractors are presently engaged in conversations with the air cleaning conference organizers to explore alternate ways to conduct the conference in future years given funding restraints. One is to merge the air cleaning conference with existing conferences, such as the Department's Waste Management Conference or the International Conference on Nuclear Engineering. The merging of the air cleaning conference with existing conferences would present a good opportunity for greater participation and a broader audience.

Beyond the air cleaning conference, the Department is directly addressing the information exchange issue. The Office of Environment, Safety and Health has started development of an Internet web site for sharing of information and lessons learned within the air filter and ventilation technology community. This is a long term effort which is in its early stages, and we anticipate that it will take several months to develop the site. In addition to Nuclear Air Cleaning Conference proceedings, we anticipate that the web site will contain technical papers, reports, and standards. As the site matures, it will become an important complement to the conference.



In summary, DOE is doing its part to ensure that there is a high visibility forum for information exchange concerning ventilation filtration technology, even in this era of budget constraints and increased scrutiny of conference and meeting attendance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Michaels', written in a cursive style.

David Michaels, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment, Safety and Health

cc: Secretarial Safety Council  
Mark Whitaker