



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

September 8, 2000

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

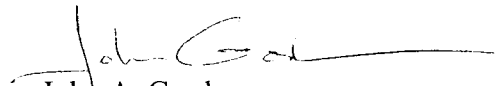
Dear Mr. Chairman:

In my capacity as the Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration, I am responding to your letter dated October 6, 1999, to the Deputy Secretary regarding safety at the Y-12 Plant. The Board has pointed out issues and shortcomings in the safety analysis for Y-12 Plant operations and their authorization bases. The Department shares the Board's concerns relative to Y-12 Plant authorization bases and commits to continue working with the Board and staff on additional improvements.

Enclosed is a June 21, 2000, report that details the Department's path forward for correcting authorization bases deficiencies at the Y-12 Plant. Authorization Basis Implementation Plan (Revision 7), Fiscal Year 2000, deliverables are on schedule. Resources at Y-12 (both personnel and funding) have been dedicated to addressing identified deficiencies. An offer has been made to a Senior Excepted Service authorization basis manager. The contractor has recently hired two additional authorization basis employees (subcontractors).

Please contact Mr. David E. Beck, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application and Stockpile Operations, at 202-586-4879 if you have any questions or have your staff contact Xavier Ascanio at 301-903-3757.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Gordon  
Administrator

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:  
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



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