



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

December 14, 2001

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:

Under Secretary Robert Card asked me to provide an interim response to your letter dated October 15, 2001, regarding the implementation of Bechtel Jacobs Company's Integrated Safety Management (ISM) system at Oak Ridge. Your letter pointed to deficient conditions that were identified in previous ISM reviews and remain uncorrected. The letter requests the Department provide a report within 45 days encompassing the key elements listed in the letter and requests quarterly briefs on the status of corrective actions. The report was due to the Board by November 29, 2001.

The Office of Science has been assigned the lead to develop the response, and is working closely with the Office of Environmental Management to plan necessary actions to resolve the issues cited in your letter. Although a Headquarters assessment of authorization bases commenced this week to address one of the specific areas in your letter, the Department requests more time to fully address all the issues. We expect to provide you a complete report and a brief by January 31, 2002.

If you have any questions please contact me at (202) 586-5440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Milton D. Johnson  
Acting Principal Deputy Director  
Office of Science

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S-3.1