



The Under Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 3, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated February 28, 2003, asking if a new policy will be used to obtain the Board comments when the Department makes changes to safety orders and other safety standards as a result of the recent Order review process.

I want to assure you that, as expressed in my letter of February 14, 2003, the Department will follow the long-established protocol for the review of draft safety directives in which both the Board and the Department review in parallel proposed changes to existing safety orders and other safety standards prior to issuance and implementation. Proposed changes to draft safety orders or other safety standards will be provided to the Board for review and comment through the Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-586-7700 or Richard Hopf at 202-586-8613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Card".

Robert G. Card