

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 30, 2006

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger Chairman Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700 Washington, D. C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides a status report regarding the development and issuance of a Department of Energy Operating Experience Order. All comments from REVCOM were received last week. As such, issuance of the Order by the end of January is not possible and will likely take until March 2006. We appreciate the comments provided by the Board's staff.

If the Board has questions, please contact me (202) 586-6151, or have your staff contact Frank E. Tooper (202) 586-1772.

John Spitaleri Shaw Assistant Secretary for

Environment, Safety and Health

√ cc: M. Whitaker, DR-1