



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585  
January 14, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Action 3.3 of the Department's Quality Assurance Improvement Plan (QAIP) requires the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to validate and verify that quality assurance programs are effectively implemented for the design, procurement, fabrication, construction, and operation of safety systems. The completion date for this action is January 2004.

The NNSA approach to complete this action was recently developed in a workshop held at the Nevada Site Office on November 13-14, 2003. We appreciate the contribution of Ms. Neysa Slater-Chandler of your staff to the success of the workshop. As a result of the workshop, we have developed an approach and schedule that will result in a technically sound and comprehensive validation and verification of effective implementation of quality assurance programs. Our projected completion date is now July 2004.

We have directed our Site Offices to complete Action 3.3 in accordance with the approach and updated schedule. A copy of our direction to the Site Offices is enclosed for your information. This direction describes our approach to completing this action.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the above, please contact Mr. Rabi Singh of my staff at (301) 903-5864.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everet H. Beckner".

Everet H. Beckner  
Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:  
M. Whitaker, DR-1  
B. Cook, EH-1

