

John T. Conway, Chairman
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John W. Crawford, Jr.
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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April 1, 1996

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

The Sixth Annual Report of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board), which has just been sent to Congress, states that "... the most important and far-reaching problem affecting the safety of Department of Energy (DOE) defense nuclear facilities is the lack of adequate numbers of qualified technical personnel in organizations responsible for safety at defense nuclear facilities. It remains the most important critical problem today, despite significant efforts by the Board." Additional support for this judgment is provided by the enclosed report, "An Assessment Concerning Safety At Defense Nuclear Facilities, The DOE Technical Personnel Problem, DNFSB/TECH-10," of which I am the author.

Copies of this report have been sent to the Chairman and Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, and to other Committees of Congress, as appropriate.

In sending you the report I am acting on my own initiative and not on behalf of the Board as a whole.

Sincerely yours,

John W. Crawford, Jr.
Board Member

c: The Honorable Charles B. Curtis
The Honorable Thomas P. Grumbly
The Honorable Archer L. Durham
The Honorable Tara J. O'Toole
The Honorable Donald W. Pearman, Jr.
The Honorable Victor H. Reis
Mr. Mark Whitaker ✓

Enclosure