



## The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 3, 2003

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter endorsing the findings and recommendations of the Department of Energy (DOE) Commission on Fire Safety and Preparedness.

The Commission, in its final report of May 28, 2002, noted both strengths and weaknesses in the Department's fire protection programs and recommended actions to improve fire safety across the complex. You requested a response that outlines the specific actions that DOE will take to implement the recommendations of the Commission. Enclosed is an Action Plan that responds to your request.

As you know, shortly after the Commission's final report, I issued a directive to DOE senior management to address the threat from wildland fires; actions required as part of this directive are complete.

I have assigned Ms. Beverly A. Cook, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, the responsibility for managing the completion of the actions contained in the Action Plan and to implement changes to address the remaining fire safety recommendations that were identified by the Commission. Please note that some of our planned actions are intended to address broader issues within the realm of safety management. We plan to keep the Board and its technical staff informed about our efforts to meet our commitments. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cook at (202) 586-6151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Abraham".

Spencer Abraham

**Enclosure**

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



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