



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

October 31, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) approved its Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manual (FRAM) on October 15, 2003 (copy enclosed). This document defines the roles and responsibilities within NNSA for assuring safe conduct of work activities.

Completion of the NNSA FRAM addresses three existing Board commitments:

- (1) In your letter to Secretary Abraham, dated January 31, 2002, regarding closure of Board recommendation 98-1, you indicated that your closure was contingent on completion of several organizational FRAMs, including one by NNSA. My understanding is that all three organizational FRAMs have now been completed and forwarded to you.
- (2) In our Quality Assurance Improvement Plan, approved by Secretary Abraham and forwarded to you by letter dated November 22, 2002, we committed to addressing NNSA quality assurance roles and responsibilities in our FRAM. These are addressed in the responsibilities sections of various NNSA officials, with emphasis on the site office managers.
- (3) In my letter to you, dated April 7, 2003, I committed to addressing in the NNSA FRAM the NNSA roles and responsibilities for oversight of safety system readiness. The NNSA FRAM assigns the following responsibility to site office managers: "Appraise performance of the contractor against formally established ES&H and emergency management performance measures and other ES&H and emergency management performance indicators, and take appropriate action. The adequacy of the contractor self-assessment process and assessments of safety system operability and programs that support system operability should be specifically appraised."



NNSA considers these commitments to be complete. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

Everet H. Beckner  
Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc: M. Whitaker, DR-1