



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 1, 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:

In my letters to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) dated September 5, 2003 and December 15, 2003, regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed revision to the *DOE Handbook: Electrical Safety* (DOE-HDBK-1092-98), we committed to provide you an initial review of the Handbook by February 2004. The purpose of this letter is to provide you an update of the activities on this Handbook, and to provide the DNFSB with a draft of revised Chapters 1-8.

As noted in my December 15th letter, a DOE Electrical Safety Group was formed and chartered to provide a comprehensive review of the Handbook. Its initial deliberations and decisions were outlined in that letter and their meetings continue. We invited and coordinated these activities with your staff to ensure their concerns and issues were addressed.

I am pleased to inform you that the DOE Electrical Safety Group completed its revision to Chapters 1-8 of the Handbook and it is provided for your review. It also includes the criteria for an electrical safety program that are contained in Appendix A. This revision updates and enhances the references to appropriate industry codes and standards. This includes appropriate reference to and adoption of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E, *Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace*.

We committed to provide you a fully revised Handbook for review, including a new chapter on electrical safety guidance for underground utility and excavation activities and enhanced chapter(s) on electrical safety for research and development, by April 2004. We will continue to work with your staff on these revisions.

If you have any questions, please call me at 202-586-6151 or your staff may contact Richard Black at 301-903-0104.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly A. Cook".

Beverly A. Cook
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

Enclosures



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

cc:

M. Whitaker, DR-1

E. Beckner, NA-10

J. Roberson, EM-1

R. Hardwick, EH-2