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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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99-0000281



January 28, 1999

The Honorable Bill Richardson  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Richardson:

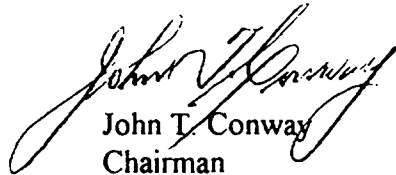
The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) received the Department of Energy's (DOE) Revision 1 of the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1, *Remediation of Nuclear Materials in the Defense Nuclear Facility Complex*, on December 30, 1998. This document provides DOE's path forward for completing stabilization of the remaining nuclear materials covered by the recommendation.

The Board considers the accomplishment of Recommendation 94-1 stabilization activities to be an important part of DOE's near-term mission to ensure that unstable residues of weapons production are rendered safe while awaiting final disposition. The Board finds the revised Implementation Plan to be acceptable with the following conditions:

- That pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), DOE provide a report within 60 days of receipt of this letter detailing the effect on material stabilization activities of delays in construction of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The report should include proposed resolutions for technical and funding issues as necessary to achieve the material end-states committed to in the Implementation Plan.
- That DOE develop a contingency plan for stabilization of the highly-enriched uranium solutions at SRS, to be implemented in the event that an agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority is not reached within the timeframes established by DOE in the Implementation Plan.
- That DOE provide the Board with detailed plans and schedules for the processing of classified metal parts from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site at SRS, including packaging of the stabilized material to DOE-STD-3013, *Criteria for Preparing and Packaging Plutonium Metals and Oxides for Long-Term Storage*.

The Board will continue to monitor progress on the remaining Recommendation 94-1 activities, with particular attention to activities at the Hanford site. In addition, the Board expects to schedule a public meeting during 1999 to allow DOE to present the progress made in implementing the revised plan. If you have comments or questions on this matter, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway  
Chairman

c: Mr. James Owendoff  
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.