

John T. Conway, Chairman
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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98-0002634



July 29, 1998

Mr. James M. Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Mr. Owendoff:

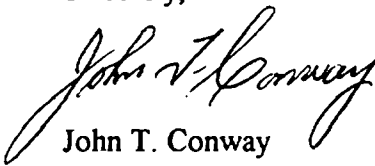
The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has received your letter of May 27, 1998, notifying us that radiological assessments for two Department of Energy (DOE) low-level waste disposal facilities have been completed in accordance with the Implementation Plan for Board Recommendation 94-2. The completed assessments are (1) the composite analysis of the effects of all source terms for the Savannah River Site's E-Area Vaults and Saltstone Disposal Facility, and (2) the combined performance assessment and composite analysis for the Nevada Test Site Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site. Completion of each of these radiological assessments is a commitment pursuant to Task Initiative VII.B.5 in DOE's Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for Board Recommendation 94-2.

The Board's staff has reviewed the radiological assessments and finds them suitable such that DOE Headquarters can proceed with its reviews. Therefore, the Board considers the DOE Implementation Plan commitment for these two deliverables to be closed. In addition, the staff has examined and reviewed a number of other open Recommendation 94-2 deliverables received prior to receipt of your letter. The Board also considers your Recommendation 94-2 Implementation Plan commitments for these deliverables to be closed at this time. A list of these deliverables is provided as an enclosure to this letter.

Not included in the enclosed list of closed deliverables are the Composite Analysis Guidance commitments (Task Initiatives VII.B.2 and VII.B.3). These two commitments are critical deliverables for Recommendations 94-2 and drafts were commented on by the Board's staff when they were provided last year as part of the document package for the draft Radioactive Waste Management Order (435.1). However, they were not included among documents in the version of that Order recently transmitted to the Board's staff for review.

The Board notes it will not be able to determine the overall adequacy of the 435.1 Order itself until acceptable final versions of these deliverables have been completed and incorporated in the Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Conway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.

Enclosure

Enclosure**List of Recommendation 94-2 Deliverables Accepted for Closure**

IP Number	Description
VI.B.4.b.2	Completion of report comparing DOE and international requirements and standards for LLW management
III.C.1	Update LLW Project Management Plan
IV.B.2	Complete LLW Management Program Requirements Document
IV.B.3	Complete LLW Management Systems Description Document
IV.B.4	Complete LLW Privatization Evaluation Report
IV.B.5	Complete LLW Program Management Plan
VII.B.5.b	Headquarters approval of INEEL RWMC Performance Assessment
VII.B.5.b	Headquarters approval of NTS Area 5 Performance Assessment
VII.B.5.b	Completion of Performance Assessment and Composite Analysis for NTS Area 3
VII.B.5.b	Headquarters approval of Hanford 200W Area Performance Assessment
VII.B.5.b	Headquarters approval of Hanford 200E Area Performance Assessment
VII.B.5.b	Headquarters approval of Savannah River Site Saltstone Performance Assessment
VII.B.5.b	Completion of Composite Analysis for Savannah River Site E-Area Vaults and Saltstone
VIII.B.1.b.1	Issue LLW Volume Capacity Survey Report (Revision 0)
VIII.B.2	Completion of LLW Projections Program Documentation
VIII.B.3	Completion of Evaluation and Strategy for Improving LLW Minimization
IX.B.1	Issue Preliminary LLW R&D Catalog (for needs identified by Board)
IX.B.2	Issue Initial LLW R&D Needs Statement (addressing Board-identified needs)