

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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:

This letter is to advise you of the completion of radiological assessments for low-level waste disposal facilities at two Department of Energy sites in accordance with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-2 Implementation Plan. Copies of the radiological assessments have been provided to members of your staff.

At the end of March 1998, the Richland Operations Office submitted a composite analysis for the four active or planned low-level waste (LLW) disposal facilities in the 200 Area plateau to Headquarters for review. The submittal completed a December 1997 commitment for completing preparation of the composite analysis. The *Composite Analysis for Low-Level Waste Disposal in the 200 Area Plateau of the Hanford Site* (PNNL-11800) presents an analysis of the potential combined long-term impacts of the three active and one planned low-level waste disposal facilities (post-1988 solid waste burial ground in the 200 West Area and 200 East Area, Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility [ERDF] and the disposal facility for immobilized waste) and other radioactive sources expected to remain at the Hanford Site versus the Department's standard for radiation protection of the public. At the beginning of June 1998, Richland Operations Office submitted the *Hanford Immobilized Low-Activity Tank Waste Performance Assessment* (DOE/RL-97-69) to Headquarters for review. This performance assessment was not a specific milestone of the implementation plan. A copy of the performance assessment has been provided to your staff. Upon acceptance of the performance assessment for immobilized waste and the composite analysis, and utilizing the previously reviewed performance assessments and ERDF analysis, Headquarters will issue disposal authorization statements for the post-1988 solid waste burial grounds in the 200 West and 200 East Areas and the planned disposal facility for immobilized waste.



At the end of May 1998, the Idaho Operations Office submitted a composite analysis for the LLW facility at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) to Headquarters for review. This submittal completed a February 1998 commitment for completing preparation of the composite analysis. The *Radioactive Waste Management Complex Low-Level Waste Radiological Composite Analysis* (INEEL/EXT-97-01113) presents an analysis of the potential long-term dose impacts of the RWMC LLW disposal facility and all other sources of radioactive contamination which could interact with the disposal facility. Upon acceptance of the composite analysis, and utilizing the previously reviewed performance assessment, Headquarters will issue a disposal authorization statement for the RWMC LLW disposal facility.

Completion of approved radiological assessments is a commitment pursuant to Task Initiative VII.B.5.B.2 in the Department of Energy's Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the DNFSB Recommendation 94-2. The Department has completed the initial actions, i.e., submittal to Headquarters, for the Hanford Site composite analysis and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory RWMC composite analysis identified under this task initiative and proposes closure of these parts of the commitment.

Sincerely,



James M. Owendoff  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:

Mark B. Whitaker, Jr., S-3.1