



97-0002058

## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 17, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department of Energy has addressed the safety concerns raised by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 95-1 regarding "Improved Safety of Cylinders Containing Depleted Uranium." Consistent with our Implementation Plan for Recommendation 95-1, we prepared a series of systems engineering documents on the management of the depleted uranium hexafluoride cylinder inventory and transmitted these documents to the Board. In addition, we prepared final safety analysis reports addressing the storage of the depleted uranium hexafluoride inventory at the K-25 site at Oak Ridge and the Portsmouth and Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant sites. These reports and the associated Department of Energy safety evaluation reports have also been provided to the Board.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the Board staff in completing all of the commitments identified in our Implementation Plan for Recommendation 95-1. Accordingly, the Department proposes closure of the recommendation. As coordinated between our respective staffs, we plan to meet with you on June 24, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., in your office to discuss our continuing efforts on the cylinder management program as well as closure of the recommendation. We look forward to the meeting and to the Board's approval to close out Recommendation 95-1.

Sincerely,

*Ray A. Hunter*

Ray A. Hunter, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy,  
Science and Technology

