

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

February 22, 1990

Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On February 22, 1990, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board met and in accordance with Section 312(5) of Public Law 100-456 approved a number of recommendations which I am sending you enclosed for your consideration.

Section 315(A) of Public Law 100-456 requires the Board, after receipt by you, to promptly make these recommendations available to the public in the Department of Energy's regional public reading rooms. Please arrange to have these recommendations placed on file in your regional public reading rooms as soon as possible.

The Board will publish these recommendations in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure

HAND DELIVERED

RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

pursuant to Section 312(5) of the
Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Dated: February 22, 1990

The Board has proceeded to give high-priority attention to the contemplated restart of the K, L, and P reactors at the Department's Savannah River site. This is in line with the intention of the Board to perform its duties on a schedule compatible with the Department's defense missions, to the extent such course is consistent with the Board's statutory responsibilities.

The Board believes that the DOE standards for training of reactor plant operators and supervisors at Savannah River have not been adequately determined and specified. Having given due regard to the technical and economic feasibility of implementation in accordance with the statute, the Board recommends:

- a. That DOE determine and specify the qualifications that reactor plant operators and supervisors will be required to demonstrate before restart of the K, L, and P reactors;
- b. That DOE identify any differences between its approved qualifications and those prescribed by NRC for analogous positions in the civilian nuclear power field; that where differences, if any, exist, DOE identify any supplemental measures that have been adopted in view thereof;
- c. That DOE make a comprehensive review of the current level of qualifications of each reactor operator and supervisor employing both written and oral examinations, so as to establish that the scope and content of the training program will achieve the knowledge prerequisite for restart;
- d. That the reactor plant operator and supervisor training programs be modified as necessary to take account of the required qualifications and the current state of knowledge and experience of the operators and supervisors as indicated in c. above;
- e. That DOE accelerate implementation of a configuration management program to help assure that as-built drawings of safety-related systems are available for training of operators and supervisors in procedures and for discipline of operations (e.g. valve line-ups); and
- f. That the operators and supervisors be qualified in use of the revised procedures that will be in place for normal operations and for emergency situations.

John T. Conway, Chairman