

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

October 27, 1992

The Honorable James D. WatKins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Board has reviewed your October 19, 1992 letter regarding HB-Line operational readiness reviews, as well as previous correspondence regarding the Board's recommendations and DOE actions and response regarding the HB-Line. The Board agrees that Recommendation 92-1 has been superseded by further action of the Board in issuing Recommendation 92-3. Therefore, the Board agrees that Recommendation 92-1 has been closed without the need for issuance of a DOE Implementation Plan which is separate and distinct from the Implementation Plan for 92-3.

As you noted in your October 19th letter, the Board requested, on April 20, 1992 that DOE notify the Board at least 10 days prior to restart of the HB-Line. That request was issued to allow the Board time to formulate any necessary recommendations before an ORR was completed and the Line restarted. Since Recommendations 92-1 and 92-3 have now been issued, the formal 10-day notification is no longer necessary. However, we understand from DOE staff that we will be kept apprised of activities during the ORR and of the proposed schedule for restart of the HB-Line.

The Board has directed its staff to observe DOE's ORR and follow the resolution and closure of safety issues identified during the June 1991 ORRs, by oversight offices of DOE during 1991-92, by our staff's investigative report, and by the recent ORRs conducted by Westinghouse Savannah River Corporation and DOE. The Board notes with approval that your letter confirmed that the issues raised in the Board's staff investigative report will be resolved before resumption of HB-Line processing. The Board is prepared to review the ORR reports and safety issue closure packages as they are completed, including reports on resolution and closure of safety issued by the Office of Nuclear Safety and the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health. After completion of our review, we intend to conduct a public hearing and DOE briefing near the Savannah River Site.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman