

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

August 6, 1993

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:

Your letter of June 16, 1993, forwarded Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-4 concerning health and safety factors associated with the Fernald Environmental Management Project and the management and oversight of environmental restoration management contracts.

The Department accepts Recommendation 93-4 and will develop and implement a technical management plan for Fernald and future environmental restoration management contracts; ensure that all elements of the Technical Management Plan recommended for environmental restoration management contracts are addressed in the plan; include insights gained as a result of addressing Recommendations 1 and 2 in our planned review of contracting mechanisms and practices; conduct an independent Headquarters review of the corrective actions taken subsequent to the recent incidents at Fernald and communicate "lessons learned" to other DOE facilities, as appropriate; formalize a clear process for restart of the uranyl nitrate hexahydrate stabilization project; and accelerate ongoing efforts to fully implement the facility representative program at Fernald in accordance with the action plan for Recommendation 92-2.

Mr. Thomas P. Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, will develop an Implementation Plan for this recommendation by November 5, 1993. The Implementation Plan will provide specific milestones and dates for accomplishing the commitments described in the preceding paragraph.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary