



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

NOV 16 1995

Mr. John Conway
 Chairman
 Defense Nuclear Facilities
 Safety Board
 625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Conway,

I just read your letters to Secretary O'Leary of November 15, 1995. You will be receiving a formal response to them shortly. However, I want to assure you that I believe, as you do, that there are very strong reasons for chemical treatment of the Mark 16 and Mark 22 fuel elements, including health & safety vulnerabilities and technical uncertainties with final disposition of this fuel.

With regard to continued operation of both Savannah River canyons, I believe the economic and other resources (such as properly trained personnel) necessary to maintain both of these canyons in a safe condition in the face of very serious budget pressures makes it important that we carefully examine the options, even though we fully understand the value of redundancy.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly
 Assistant Secretary for
 Environmental Management

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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NBN 7540-01-317-7368

5099-101

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