

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

April 2, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

This letter is to advise you that the current schedule for stabilizing the plutonium solutions at Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site will not meet the following Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan milestones:

- Stabilize 80% of high-level solutions and 50% of low-level solutions (18,000 liters; 5/97).
- Stabilize all solutions in Building 771 (12,000 liters; 12/97).
- Stabilize all solutions in Building 371 (18,000 liters; 6/99).

Considerable work will be required of Rocky Flats to refine the plutonium solutions stabilization schedule. In that effort, opportunities for improving will be identified and as the preparations go forward, every effort will be made to recover schedule. A change to the Implementation Plan that will reflect both the revised schedule for plutonium solutions and the previously addressed Rocky Flats solid residue schedule will be forwarded to you in 30 days. The Nuclear Materials Stabilization Task Group will consult closely with your staff in the preparation of this change and will be prepared to brief you when it is near completion.

In the course of the year since the Implementation Plan was forwarded to the Board, it has become apparent that other milestones may need to be modified. Several alternatives for treating various residue categories are being examined through trade studies that will be completed by August. The decision on utilization of the Savannah River canyons will affect other milestones and options in the Implementation Plan. Additionally, selective program reviews this spring may identify other schedule changes or treatment options. We will continue to inform your staff as the foregoing emerge, and we will consult with you on changes that are envisioned as a result.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Henry F. Dalton, Acting Director, Nuclear Materials Stabilization Task Group at 202/586-5266.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Guimond

Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management