



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Copied to All Board Members

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

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Dear Mr. Conway:

Thank you for your March 13, 1996, letter clarifying your expectations regarding Recommendation 94-3.

There remains considerable uncertainty with regard to Department plans for long-term disposition of plutonium materials in excess of strategic defense needs. However, I have made initial decisions on upgrades for Building 371 which are appropriate even considering the uncertain duration for the interim storage mission at the site. Those decisions will be communicated to you separately.

In coordination with our stakeholders, we have set goals for moving materials off the Rocky Flats site. We may decide on additional Building 371 upgrades based upon our progress in efforts to ship material to other sites, process and package material to safer storage forms, and resolve uncertainty in the duration of the site storage mission. We also expect to make progress in designing new plutonium storage facilities in conjunction with our efforts to define long-term plutonium storage options. These designs could be used at Rocky Flats.

The unresolved issues identified in your letter will be addressed in the Integrated Program Plan for upgrading Building 371. This information is unclassified and suitable for placement in the public reading room.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly
Acting Under Secretary