

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

December 2, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Department of Energy intends to close the ferrocyanide safety issue at Hanford.

Your letter dated September 4, 1996, advised the Secretary of Energy that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) considered Recommendation 90-7 to be closed. The one remaining commitment to Recommendation 90-7 was incorporated into the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-5, which addresses characterization of the Hanford high-level waste storage tanks and resolution of associated safety issues. Your letter also accepted the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-5.

The remaining ferrocyanide commitment, Recommendation 93-5 Implementation Plan Milestone 5.4.3.2.a, "Topical Report on the Resolution of the Ferrocyanide Safety Issue," was completed ahead of schedule and was submitted to you by Mr. John Wagoner, Manager of the Richland Operations Office in a letter dated September 23, 1996. This report also provided the technical basis for removing the remaining 14 ferrocyanide tanks from the Watch List.

Upon closure of the ferrocyanide safety issue, the Department intends to discontinue all reference to ferrocyanide in the quarterly progress reports required by Recommendation 93-5.

The ferrocyanide safety issue is the first high-priority safety issue to be resolved at the Hanford Site. I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the technical input and oversight that you and your staff provided for this unique accomplishment.

Sincerely,

***Alvin L. Alm***  
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

cc:  
M. Whitaker