

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE

December 24, 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. Chairman:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION 93-5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP), REVISION 1, MILESTONE 5.4.3.3.A, "LETTER REPORTING COMPLETION OF SUPPORTING TECHNICAL DOCUMENT ON ORGANIC COMPLEXANT SAFETY ISSUE"

This letter is to advise the DNFSB that Recommendation 93-5 IP, Revision 1, Milestone 5.4.3.3.a, "Letter Reporting Completion of Supporting Technical Document on Organic Complexant Safety Issue," dated December 1996, will not be met.

The draft technical report entitled "Safety Criteria for the Organic Watch List Tanks at the Hanford Site," WHC-SD-WM-SARR-033, Revision 1, dated August 1996, which supports this milestone, provides the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) current understanding of the organic complexant safety issue and future work for resolution as well as documentation which identifies safety criteria for organic watch list tanks at the Hanford Site.

In a recent telephone conversation with the DNFSB staff and RL it was stated that this report and future reports should be like the closure report for the ferrocyanide issue. It was concluded that a revision to the technical report is required. To that end, RL is in the process of revising the technical report and is expected to submit the final technical report to the DNFSB staff by June 1997.

RL is determined and committed to meet the requirements of the Recommendation 93-5 IP. Copies of the draft technical document have been sent to your staff.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jackson Kinzer, Assistant Manager for the Tank Waste Remediation System, on (509) 376-7591.

Sincerely,

John D. Wagoner  
Manager

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