

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

October 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:

Enclosed is the "Evaluation of the Safety Merits and Demerits of Using Privately Operated Facilities for Disposal of the Department of Energy (DOE) Low-Level Waste " report dated September 1996. This document is a deliverable due to you as detailed in Secretary O'Leary's April 1996, Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2, task IV.B.4. This report was developed as part of the Systems Engineering task for low-level waste management.

This report evaluates safety issues associated with low-level waste disposal at privately operated facilities versus DOE managed facilities. Further, the Privatization report will be used to establish guidance and criteria for sites to use when considering disposal options. Based on conversations with your staff, this guidance and criteria (specified as part of the Task IV.B.4 deliverable) will be part of the Low-Level Waste Program Management Plan deliverable.

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Enclosure