

[DOE (RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE) LETTERHEAD]

OCT 31 1996

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE (RL) APPROVAL OF THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR SALTWELL PUMPING IN FLAMMABLE GAS TANKS AND INCORPORATION INTO THE TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) AUTHORIZATION BASIS.

In response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 93-5 Implementation Plan, Revision 1, DOE/RL-94-0001, Milestone 5.4.3.5.e, RL is reporting that the safety assessment for saltwell pumping in flammable gas tanks has been approved and the documentation incorporating the safety assessment into the TWRS Authorization Basis has been completed. RL has completed all of the actions identified under this milestone and proposes closure of this commitment. The due date for this milestone is October 31, 1996.

For your information, the safety assessment for saltwell pumping in flammable gas tanks and the documentation incorporating the safety assessment into the TWRS Authorization Basis have been informally provided to your staff.

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

Sincerely,

John D. Wagoner
Manager

cc: R. Izatt, EM-2
J. Tseng, EM-4
K. Lang, EM-38
M. Whitaker, S-3.1