



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 31, 1997

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:

Thank you for the clear articulation of your concerns about the Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project in Technical Report #17. I assure you that I share those concerns and that they are being addressed in an integrated manner. We intend to document our plans and actions in the report you requested before the end of March 1998.

As a matter of record, we are aware that the 94-1 Implementation Plan calls for fuel removal to begin from the K-Basins this month. This date will not be met. We are preparing a 94-1 Implementation Plan change in parallel with the baseline change which the Richland Operations Office Acquisition Advisory Board will review within the next month. Shortly after approval of the baseline change, we will forward a 94-1 implementation plan change for the Hanford milestones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvin L. Alm".

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

