



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 7, 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 your letter dated October 9, 1997, and the attached summaries of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) staff concerning the In-Tank Precipitation Facility (ITP) and the tank farm authorization basis and safety programs.

As identified in your letter, there are several high-level waste safety issues being managed by site personnel and the program office. We are continuing to press forward in a safe and deliberate manner with our analyses and research regarding the ITP chemistry issue, the accident analyses, and controls for hydrogen deflagrations for the waste tanks. We will continue to keep the Board's staff and the Board informed on developments in these areas.

I appreciate your continued interest in this program. Should you require any additional information on this subject please feel free to contact me at (202) 586-7710, or Mark Frei of my staff at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

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

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:
Mark B. Whitaker, Jr., S-3.1

