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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004
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June 26, 1998

Merilyn B. Reeves, Chair
Hanford Advisory Board
Technical Resources International, Inc.
723 The Parkway, Suite 200
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Ms. Reeves:

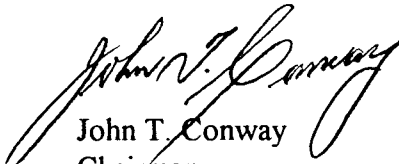
Thank you for your letter of June 5, 1998. Your enclosed advice to the Department of Energy (DOE) shows that the Hanford Advisory Board takes an active interest in ensuring that the Hanford Site is cleaned up safely and expeditiously. An informed and active organization such as yours is an important force in ensuring that DOE's cleanup progresses. The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) appreciates your interest and involvement in the activities taking place at Hanford. The Board shares your concern with the slow pace of cleanup at that site.

Your letter and its enclosures take particular exception to the DOE budget currently being applied to the Hanford cleanup effort. While the Board cannot comment directly on the adequacy of DOE's budget as a whole, we are aware that many of the Board's initiatives are not being adequately funded at Hanford—specifically those activities being performed in response to Board Recommendation 94-1. Lack of adequate funding has contributed to the delay in removing spent nuclear fuel from the K Basins. Similarly, lack of adequate funding is seriously hampering plutonium stabilization activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant. The Board considers each of these remediation efforts important to protection of the health and safety of the public and the workers in the Hanford area.

During its public hearings on Recommendation 94-1 in May and June 1998, the Board made clear to DOE its position on these matters: if DOE does not have sufficient funds to accomplish Board recommendations, it must notify the President of the United States and the Congress of the situation. Please note that, in accordance with the Board's enabling statute (42 U.S.C. § 2286 *et seq.*), it is DOE, not the Board, that must notify Congress and the President should insufficient funding be available to meet a Board recommendation. The Board will continue to remind DOE of its obligation to take this action.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to call me or Mr. Daniel Ogg, the Board's Hanford Site Representative.

Sincerely,



John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Mr. John Wagoner
Mr. James M. Owendoff
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.