



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 6, 1998

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We expect to complete our response to your March 18, 1998 letter with observations from your staff's February 18 issue report by July 31, 1998. Schedule performance, which is your leading issue, has been the central focus of both DOE and our contractors since the beginning of the year. As you know, the key scheduling product is a high confidence baseline to meeting requirements for managerial control, the Tri-Party Agreement and the 94-1 Implementation Plan. We regret not providing a response to you sooner, but that key product continues to evolve.

Your issues are important to us and we have discussed our potential responses with your staff. If you have any further questions on the status of our response, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact David Huizenga, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Material and Facility Stabilization, at 202-586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Owendoff".

James M. Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

cc:
M. Whitaker S-3.1