The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your August 18, 2000, letter expressing concern with the Savannah River Site contractor's practice relative to the classification and design of systems for the Americium/Curium Vitrification Project. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

On September 6, your staff was briefed on the process and methodology for conducting the back fit analysis and other issues raised in your letter. The DOE will keep you informed on the progress and results of the analysis. We will schedule a briefing for you, as requested in your letter, within the next two months. At that time we will address the issues raised in your letter and in your staff's report enclosed with that letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Mark Frei at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Huntoon  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:  
Mark Whitaker, Jr., Department of Energy, S-3.1  
Randal Scott, Department of Energy, EM-5  
Greg Rudy, Savannah River  
Roy Schepens, Savannah River  
R. Erickson, Savannah River