

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 27, 2003

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2091

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to report on the 94-1 Research and Development (R&D) Program as requested in your letter of March 20, 2003. I am in the process of recasting the 94-1 R&D Program into a corporate 3013 Surveillance and Monitoring Program to support the safe long-term storage of plutonium bearing-materials. I recently directed the Savannah River Operations Office (SR) to lead the transition and develop a Program Plan delineating the technical support necessary to meet DOE-STD-3013-2000 (Enclosure). The Program Plan will provide the basis for Department of Energy's funding level decision for fiscal year 2004.

Past 94-1 R&D efforts have provided valuable support to the sites with the initial focus on stabilizing plutonium bearing-materials to DOE-STD-3013-2000. Many of the issues with stabilization and packaging have been addressed and the sites' needs are shifting to long-term storage. The 94-1 R&D support is in a transition. Continued technical support is needed and I am committed to maintaining support but with a focus on addressing long-term storage. An organized transition of the lead from Albuquerque to SR will permit ongoing support, such as the shelf-life program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, to continue without any loss in information or break in our DOE-STD-3013-2000 compliance.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Paul Golan, Chief Operating Officer, at (202) 586-0738.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure



cc: Mark Whitaker, S-3.1
Keith Klein, RL
Jeffrey M. Allison, SR

memorandum

DATE: May 23, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EM-33 (Charles O'Dell, 301-903-9445)


SUBJECT: Transition of the 94-1 Research and Development Program

TO: Jeffrey M. Allison, Manager, Savannah River Operations Office
Keith A. Klein, Manager, Richland Operations Office
Everet H. Beckner, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction for the transition of the Office of Environmental Management (EM) 94-1 Research and Development Program (R&D) from a study program at Albuquerque under the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Service Center (formerly the Albuquerque Operations Office) to a 3013 Surveillance and Monitoring Program (S&M) at the Savannah River Operations Office (SR).

- SR is directed to develop a program plan delineating both the integrated surveillance and monitoring support needed for SR and Richland Operations Office (RL) to ensure conformance to the standard, DOE-STD-3013-2000.
- The SR plan will also detail the transition of management from NNSA to SR as soon as possible.
- NNSA should use for planning purposes the following funding levels not to exceed \$8.8M (FY 2004) and \$6.0M (FY 2005). This funding is intended to continue corrosion monitoring project at LANL that support the shelf-life program as required for DOE-STD-3013-2000.
- Funding for this EM work under the NNSA Service Center and SR will occur as part of the normal budget cycle and will be based upon my approval of the multi-year Program Plan.
- SR is to submit this plan for my approval by June 13, 2003.
- RL and SR shall continue their present activities for the stabilization and packaging of their Plutonium bearing materials.

Should you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Ms. Patrice M. Bubar, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Integration and Disposition, at (202) 586-5151.


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: James S. Hirahara, Director, NNSA Service Center
Ray J. Corey, Associate Director for Technical Services, NNSA Service Center