



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

MAY 05 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to status commitments from the Office of Environmental Management (EM) to the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board that are currently past due.

Commitment 6 of the Implementation Plan (IP) for 2002-1 "Quality Assurance for Safety-Related Software" and two actions from the Secretary's November 22, 2002, letter on the "Quality Assurance Improvement Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities" are past due. All three require revision of the EM Headquarters and Field Functions, Responsibilities and Authorities (FRA) documents to address quality assurance and software quality assurance. I appreciate the comments provided by your staff during the development of the EM Headquarters FRA document, which was recently approved and will be provided to you under separate cover. The EM Field FRA updates are expected to follow within the next two months.

There has been no change in Commitments 2.9 of the IP for 2001-01 "High-Level Waste Management at the Savannah River Site". The movement of Tank 50 low curie salt cake (Commitment 2.9) will not be initiated until ongoing legal issues have been resolved.

Regarding your letter of November 7, 2003, concerning the retrieval, storage, and disposal of the waste drums at Richland containing Pu-238, an interim response was provided on February 3, 2004. Our path remains to provide the final response to you by May 28, 2004.

The statuses of past due commitments will be provided individually in the future. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-0738.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Inés Triay".

Dr. Inés Triay
Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Environmental Management

