

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

October 27, 1992

The Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in response to your letter of October 11, 1992, and other inquiries and discussions between representatives of the Department of Energy and the Board relating to the current status of a number of Board Recommendations.

The Board agrees that Recommendation 91-2, closure of safety issues prior to restart of K-Reactor at Savannah River Site, Recommendation 91-1, strengthening the nuclear safety standards program for DOE's defense nuclear facilities, and Recommendation 90-1, operational training at Savannah River facilities prior to restart of K-Reactor, have been fully implemented and, therefore, have been determined by the Board to be closed. A separate letter transmitted to you today states that we also agree that Recommendation 92-1, operational readiness of the HB-Line at the Savannah River Site, has been superseded by Recommendation 92-3 and is, therefore, also closed.

In your letter of October 11, 1992, regarding Recommendation 91-2, you noted that procedures, priorities, and schedules for items in the Reactor Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) were developed. You stated that the Department will keep the Board fully informed of the progress made and the status of the RSIP in the future. Since the K-Reactor has been restarted and the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 91-2 has been completed, your commitment to keep the Board fully informed regarding the RSIP is the final step in closing out Recommendation 91-2.

By letter dated September 25, 1992, regarding Board Recommendation 91-1, Mr. William Young, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, stated that the Department had now completed an action plan called for by DOE's Implementation Plan. He committed to provide the Board prior to November 1 a written report on the study and findings which served as the basis for the action plan. He notified the Board that the Department would provide quarterly reports on DOE's progress in carrying out the action plan. With those three commitments, and understandings developed during discussions Mr. Crawford of the Board had with Mr. Young and his staff, the Board considers Recommendation 91-1 to have been fully implemented. It is, therefore, closed. The Board will continue to follow DOE's progress on the study and action plan.

Sincerely,

John Conway
Chairman