

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

May 21, 1992

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On May 21, 1992, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §2286a(5), unanimously approved Recommendation 92-1 which is enclosed for your consideration. Recommendation 92-1 deals with operational readiness of the HB-Line at the Savannah River Site.

42 U.S.C. §2286d(a) requires the Board, after receipt by you, to promptly make this recommendation available to the public in the Department of Energy's regional public reading rooms. The Board believes the recommendation contains no information which is classified or otherwise restricted. To the extent this recommendation does not include information restricted by DOE under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, 42 U.S.C. §§2161-68, as amended, please arrange to have this recommendation promptly placed on file in your regional public reading rooms.

The Board will publish this recommendation in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure

RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §2286a(5)
Atomic Energy Act of 1854, as amended.

Dated: May 21, 1992

The Board is presently completing an investigation of the readiness for resumption of operations at the HB-Line at the Savannah River Site. This investigation raises a number of significant safety issues that the Board believes must be discussed and resolved before the resumption should occur.

Therefore, the Board recommends that:

- o DOE defer resumption of processing at the HB-Line for the present, pending issuance of the report of the Board's investigation, resolution of the issues, and possible further Board action.

In order that this matter can be dealt with expeditiously, we are giving high priority to completing the report embodying the results of the investigation.

John T. Conway
Chairman