

[SOE LETTERHEAD]

February 14, 1995

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is to advise you, pursuant to 42 USC 2286d(e), that the Department of Energy (Department) needs an additional 45 days to respond to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 92-4, Conformance with Safety Standards at Department of Energy Low-Level Nuclear Waste and Disposal Sites.

The Department has established a Headquarters/Field task force to develop the Implementation Plan, which is receiving considerable input from the field. An integrated systems approach is being used to develop the Implementation Plan. Discussions between the Department and the Board staff have been constructive in developing a responsive plan. However, a 45-day extension is required to more clearly define a cost-effective and efficient approach for conducting the complex-wide review necessary to establish the dimensions of the low-level waste disposal problem. The Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-2 will be provided by March 31, 1995.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary

Duplicate letter sent to:

The Honorable Newt Gingrich Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield Chairman Committee on Appropriations United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd Ranking Minority Member
The Honorable Strom Thurmond Chairman Committee on Armed Services United States
Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Sam Nunn Ranking Minority Member