

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

JULY 31, 1995

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In the "Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2 Implementation Plan," (March 31, 1995) the Department of Energy (DOE) commits to a series of actions in the area of radiological performance assessments. The ultimate goal of these actions is to evaluate the impacts of all of the appropriate source terms in the performance assessments prepared by the sites and approved by the Department.

The Department is currently revising its plans in the area of performance assessment to be consistent with the conditions the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board included in its June 15, 1995, letter of acceptance on the Implementation Plan. The revisions are necessary to ensure that DOE focuses its performance assessment resources on completing performance assessments which include all appropriate source terms rather than putting much effort into incomplete performance assessments or screening analyses. One of the commitments in the Implementation Plan is to issue guidance for conducting preliminary assessments by the end of July 1995 (task initiative VII.B.2.b.1). In light of the changes being made in the plans for completing radiological performance assessments, the guidance for preliminary-assessments is no longer necessary and therefore will not be completed. In lieu of the guidance for preliminary assessments, the Department will prepare guidance by October 31, 1995, for including all appropriate source terms in performance assessments.

A letter is being prepared for the Secretary of Energy's signature that fully describes the revisions the Department is making to its plans in response to the conditions in the Board's June 15 letter. The Board or Board staff are invited to contact me (202 586-0370) or Greg Duggan (301 903-7140) to discuss these revisions.

Jill E. Lytle

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management
Environmental Management