

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

JUN 30 1995

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

In the "Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2 Implementation Plan," (March 31, 1995) the Department of Energy (DOE) recognized the need for research and development (R&D) to support data needs and improvements in the low-level waste (LLW) management program, and committed to a number of actions to improve this area of LLW management. The Implementation Plan identified that DOE would catalog applicable R&D activities, coordinate the identification of R&D needs, correlate the needs with the catalog of activities, and develop and recommend an R&D strategy for the LLW R&D not being addressed.

I am pleased to report that we have completed the first milestone to develop a preliminary LLW management R&D Activities Catalog addressing the five R&D needs areas identified by the Board. Enclosed is our report which provides an overview of the R&D task, summarizes the process and results of the R&D data searches, and provides detailed information on how to access the R&D Activities Catalog.

The catalog is provided as a Microsoft Access database for ease of searching and is accessible on the Internet for maximum accessibility by all users of the information. The database contains approximately 5,000 records composed of several fields including: classification by one of the five Board areas, cognizant individual, performing organization, summary of results, and an assessment of research maturity. The catalog is based on a search of printed data sources including DOE's Office of Technology Development, Technology and Integrated Program Summaries, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Summary of LLW Research Program, and electronic sources including the Integrated Technical Information System and the National Technical Information System.

The records have had a preliminary screening for applicability to LLW needs by technical experts at Pacific Northwest Laboratories. Additional screening of the catalog by the R&D Task Team will take place as the R&D needs are defined for the September 30, 1995, milestone.

We will keep you advised of our progress in this area through contact with your staff and our progress reports to the Board.

Sincerely,

***Jill E. Lytle***  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management  
Environmental Management

Enclosure