

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

August 23, 1995

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

As you have changed the Rocky Flats mission from nuclear weapons production to nuclear material consolidation and decommissioning of its nuclear facilities, the safety issues have also changed. We believe that consolidation of nuclear material, as discussed in your Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1, may cause the hazards workers face during decommissioning of aging nuclear facilities to exceed those encountered during operation of those nuclear facilities. Several recent occurrences and changes in structure, system, and component reliability at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) substantiate this belief.

We have concluded that our oversight activities will be enhanced by our assigning two technical staff personnel to serve as the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Site Representatives at the RFETS. Mr. Robert Warther, a member of our senior technical staff, will arrive on site on August 28, 1995. Mr. Mark Sautman is scheduled to arrive on site on October 2, 1995, and will work under Mr. Warther.

These actions are in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(h), and have been discussed with the Rocky Flats Field Office and senior personnel from Kaiser-Hill. We look forward to continued openness and cooperation with these organizations.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Thomas P. Grumbly
Mr. Mark Whitaker
Mr. Mark Silverman

Enclosure

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is pleased to announce the assignment of Robert F. Warther as the Board's first site representative at the Rocky Flats Environmental

Technology Site, effective August 28, 1995.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is an independent Federal Government agency with public health and safety oversight responsibilities at the Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities.

In this newly created position, Mr. Warther will advise the Board on overall safety and health conditions at Rocky Flats, and will participate in the conduct of Board staff reviews and evaluations related to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. He also will act as the Board's liaison with the Rocky Flats management team, and represent the Board before state and local agencies, the public, and industry officials.

Mr. Warther joined the Board in January 1991. His previous assignments with the Board included primary responsibility for coordinating the technical reviews of implementation of health and safety standards at Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities, including Rocky Flats, and the review and evaluation of the DOE Facility Representative Program.

Prior to joining the Board, Mr. Warther was involved with the design, testing, and maintenance for the Seawolf and Trident nuclear submarines. As a Naval Officer Mr. Warther was trained under the naval nuclear propulsion program. He also was a qualified Nuclear Engineer Officer aboard the submarine USS Henry Clay, and subsequently taught courses for nuclear engineers.

A graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Warther received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, and earned a Masters in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He also has an MBA from The Citadel. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. During his employment with the Board, Mr. Warther has completed post-graduate course work in nuclear chemical engineering and has received extensive training in material sciences and systems engineering.

Mr. Warther will reside in the Louisville area with his wife Kim, and two children.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is pleased to announce the assignment of Mark T. Sautman as the Board's second site representative at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, effective October 2, 1995.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is an independent Federal Government agency with public health and safety oversight responsibilities at the Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities.

In this position, Mr. Sautman will advise the Board on overall safety and health conditions at Rocky Flats, and will participate in the conduct of Board staff reviews and evaluations related to the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. He also will interact with the Rocky Flats management team, and will participate in meetings

with state and local agencies, the public, and industry officials.

Mr Sautman joined the Board in January 1994. His previous assignments with the Board included technical reviews of radioactive waste management activities, the storage of uranium and plutonium, and environmental protection at Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities.

Prior to joining the Board, Mr Sautman was involved with radioactive waste research and management at Sandia National Laboratory, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, and Pennsylvania Power and Light. He also was an Institute of Nuclear Power Operations intern at Illinois Power's Clinton reactor.

As a DOE Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Fellow, Mr. Sautman received a Masters in Nuclear Engineering and a Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also has a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla.