

**[SOE LETTERHEAD]**

January 11, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

This letter is to formally notify you that our Recommendation 93-5 commitments to complete sampling and analysis of all watch list tanks by October 1995 and all remaining tanks by October 1996 will not be completed by their respective due dates. In accordance with section seven of our Implementation Plan for Recommendation 93-5, you were informed in several Recommendation 93-5 quarterly reports that it was unlikely that we would meet these commitment dates.

While we will not complete sampling and analysis of the tanks in accordance with the commitments in the original 93-5 Implementation Plan, we are continuing to characterize the high-level waste tanks to establish the technical basis for meeting the Tank Waste Remediation System programmatic and safety needs. In addition, we are reevaluating the needs of the storage, retrieval, pretreatment, and disposal programs based on historical data, modeling, and characterization data obtained during the last two years. A revised 93-5 Implementation Plan based on this evaluation will be submitted to you by January 21, 1996. The revised Implementation Plan will establish new commitments to complete characterization of the Hanford high-level waste tanks.

Thank you for your continued interest in our characterization program.

Sincerely,

*Hazel R. O'Leary*