

**[DOE (RICHLAND OPERATIONS OFFICE) LETTERHEAD]**

December 30, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

**COMPLETION OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB)  
RECOMMENDATION 93-5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, REVISION 1, MILESTONE  
5.4.3.1c, "APPROVED BIO"**

This letter reports conditional approval of the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS) Basis for Interim Operation (BIO), which is identified under DNFSB Recommendation 93-5 Implementation Plan, Revision 1, Milestone 5.4.3.1c, "Approved BIO," due December 31, 1996. The TWRS BIO, and supporting documents, have been transmitted to your staff.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL) has been working to address your staff's comments and to complete the TWRS BIO. This BIO when fully implemented, will establish an interim safety baseline in compliance with DOE Order 5480.23, and will serve as the TWRS Authorization Basis until the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) is approved and implemented. RL believes that approval and implementation of the TWRS BIO is a significant step forward in establishing an overall integrated Safety Management System at Hanford. While developing the FSAR and implementing the BIO, Richland will continue refining the controls required to ensure adequate protection from the risks posed by several high consequence accident scenarios, including evaluating the possible need for additional emergency response actions on Highway 240.

RL has completed the actions identified under this milestone and proposes closure of this commitment.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Carol L. Sohn, Management Systems Division, on (509) 376-8523.

Sincerely,

***John D. Wagoner***  
Manager

cc:

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