

[DOE (RLOO) LETTERHEAD]

December 31, 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:

LATE DELIVERY OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION 93-5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP), REVISION 1, MILESTONE 5.4.3.5.d, "LETTER REPORTING QUALIFICATION OF ROTARY MODE CORE SAMPLING SYSTEM FOR USE IN FLAMMABLE GAS TANKS"

This letter reports a further delay to the completion of Recommendation 93-5 IP, Revision 1, Milestone 5.4.3.5.d, "Letter Reporting Qualification of Rotary Mode Core Sampling System for Use in Flammable Gas Tanks." The due date for this milestone was September 1996. On October 3, 1996, I informed you that this milestone would be delayed due to deficiencies encountered during the Independent Operational Readiness Review (ORR). The targeted completion date was late October 1996. In the DNFSB Recommendation 93-5 Quarterly Report transmitted to you on November 4, 1996, the estimate for correcting the deficiencies identified by the ORR was revised to December 1996.

A second ORR was conducted during the period of November 27, 1996, to December 13, 1996. The ORR found that both the contractors and the U.S Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office were ready to proceed with the Rotary Mode Core Sampling (RMCS) operations pending resolution of three punch list items. During the punch list resolution a new issue was identified by the contractor concerning the calibration of a Whittaker Hydrogen Probe on the RMCS exhaustor. Redesign of the probe housing is required for operation in cold weather. Redesign activities are ongoing. A revised date for resorting qualification of the Rotary Core Mode Core Sampling System for use in flammable gas tanks will be included in the quarterly report for October 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, due to be transmitted to you by January 31, 1997.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jackson Kinzer, Assistant Manager for Tank Waste Remediation System, on (509) 376-7591.

Sincerely,

John D. Wagoner
Manager

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