

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

November 1, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the "Interim Format and Content Guide, and Standard Review Plan for U.S. Department of Energy Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility Performance Assessments." Preparation of a format and content guide and a standard review plan is a deliverable pursuant to the commitment in Task Initiative VII.B.4.b.2 identified in the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2.

Because of the very strong overlap in the information needed for preparation or review of a performance assessment, we decided to combine the guidance for both activities into a single document. The section on preparation of performance assessments was developed based on experience gained in preparing and reviewing half a dozen performance assessments. The review guidance reflects policy decisions and lessons learned from the review of four performance assessments over the last six months. This guidance is being issued as interim due to the possible impacts on long-term assessments of two pending directives. The Department is in the process of revising DOE Order 5820.2A, "Radioactive Waste Management." Also, the DOE regulation on "Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment," 10 Code of Federal Regulations 834, and its guidance, are expected to be issued in the near future. Following issuance of these two directives, DOE plans to reevaluate the enclosed guidance and revised it as necessary.

The Department has completed the actions identified under this commitment and proposes closure of the commitment.

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Enclosure

INTERIM
FORMAT AND CONTENT GUIDE AND
STANDARD REVIEW PLAN
FOR U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LOW-LEVEL WASTE
DISPOSAL FACILITY PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS



October 31, 1996

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