

[DNFSB LETTERHEAD]

August 20, 1996

The Honorable Hazel R. O'Leary
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary O'Leary:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) reviewed the April 1996 revised Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-2, "Conformance with Safety Standards at Department of Energy Low-Level Nuclear Waste and Disposal Sites" and, except as described below, has found it acceptable.

The Board notes that there has been considerable improvement recently in the progress toward implementation of this recommendation. The Board understands that the recent successes are a result of increased management attention and aggressiveness. The Board believes that continued senior management attention, similar to the approach taken to implement Recommendation 94-1, continues to be appropriate.

Board acceptance of the revised Implementation Plan is conditioned upon the following:

- Retention of the commitment contained in March 31, 1995, Implementation Plan to expand the performance assessment peer review panel (VI.B.5.b. 1.).
- Expedite completion of the performance assessment approval guidance criteria to a more meaningful completion date, given the current Department of Energy Headquarter's performance assessment review and approval schedule (VII.D.4.b.2.).

The Board will continue to monitor completion of the commitments identified in the revised Implementation Plan and make further recommendations it deems necessary and appropriate to ensure the health and safety of the public and workers. We look forward to working with you and your staff toward the continued implementation of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c:
The Honorable Alvin L. Alm
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.