

**[DOE LETTERHEAD]**

March 28, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed are the final "Safety Analysis Reports" (SAR) and "Safety Evaluation Reports" (SER) for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, and the K-25 Site Uranium Hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) Cylinder Storage Yards. These documents complete all of the deliverables identified in the "Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 95-1."

These SARs are the updated safety bases for storage and maintenance of cylinders containing depleted UF<sub>6</sub> at the aforementioned three sites. The Department has reviewed the SARs, and prepared and issued safety evaluation reports approving them. The Department finds that the updated safety bases for continued cylinder storage are adequate and that these safety bases will be maintained through a rigorous change control process. As a result of our analyses, we conclude that a study of alternative chemical forms for long-term storage is not required from a safety standpoint.

Sincerely,

**Ray A. Hunter**, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology

Enclosure