

[DOE (SROO) LETTERHEAD]

JUN 26 1997

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:

SUBJECT: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 96-1
Implementation Plan

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status of Recommendation 96-1 Implementation Plan deliverables for the months of May and June 1997, and to inform you of our current review of Implementation Plan activities.

1. The "Report on Bounding Mass Transfer Coefficients for ITP Tanks" (Commitment #5, Milestone #5.2.4-2) was not issued in May 1997 as scheduled due to issues associated with the documentation and technical review of methods used to produce 95% confidence level values for plant Mass Transfer Coefficients. Additional work is currently being performed to document and technically review these methods, and may result in some changes to the information previously discussed with your staff. All work on this deliverable is expected to be complete and ready for issuance to you by July 30, 1997.
2. An underlying assumption of the Implementation Plan was that resolution of ITP chemistry issues and development of an Authorization Basis would merge together as scheduled to support restart and full operation of the ITP process. Given this assumption, a sampling plan (Commitment #5, Milestone #5.2.4-5) was to be prepared and issued in June 1997 to define the plant sampling activities necessary to confirm laboratory findings as the plant initiated premature to prepare the sampling plan prior to obtaining a more complete understanding and resolution of the chemistry issues. Therefore, the sampling plan delivery will be delayed to December 1997, so that it addresses the actual laboratory findings that need to be confirmed and is consistent with the final safety strategy.
3. DOE-SR is currently conducting a review of all Implementation Plan activities to assess each activity's applicability in light of additional information discovered to date, and to determine if any additional activities are required to better understand and resolve the ITP chemistry issues. This review may result in a need to revise the Implementation Plan. If a revision is determined to be necessary, we will work the changes with your staff.

The items above have been previously discussed with your staff. Please direct any questions to me or W. F. Spader at (803) 208-7409.

Sincerely,

Frank R. McCoy

Assistant Manager for High Level Waste

ED:JWM:kl

PC-97-0063

cc:

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