



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 27, 1998

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:

This letter is to advise you of the completion of radiological assessments for low-level waste disposal facilities at two Department of Energy (Department) sites in accordance with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-2 Implementation Plan. Copies of the radiological assessments have been provided to members of your staff.

At the end of October 1997, the Savannah River Operations Office submitted a composite analysis for the E-Area Vaults and the Saltstone Disposal Facility to Headquarters for review. The submittal completed a September 1997 commitment for completing preparation of the composite analysis. The *Composite Analysis E-Area Vaults and Saltstone Disposal Facilities, Rev. 0* (WSRC-RP-97-311) presents an analysis of the potential combined long-term impacts of the two low-level waste disposal facilities (E-Area Vaults and Saltstone) and other radioactive sources expected to remain at the Savannah River Site versus the DOE Order 5820.2A, which is the Department's standard for radiation protection of the public. Upon acceptance, the composite analysis and the previously reviewed performance assessments will provide the basis for Headquarters issuance of disposal authorization statements for the E-Area Vaults and the Saltstone Disposal Facility.

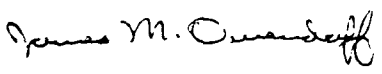
In November 1997, the Nevada Operations Office submitted a combined performance assessment and composite analysis to Headquarters for review. The *Performance Assessment/Composite Analysis for the Area 3 Radioactive Waste Management Site at the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada, Revision 2.0* (DOE/NV-491) presents an analysis of the potential long-term dose impacts of the Area 3 disposal facility versus the DOE Order 5820.2A performance objectives.



It also includes an analysis of the potential future impacts to the public of the Area 3 disposal facility in combination with other sources of radioactivity to be left at the Nevada Test Site. Upon acceptance of the combined performance assessment and composite analysis, Headquarters will issue a disposal authorization statement for the Area 3 disposal facility.

Completion of approved radiological assessments is a commitment pursuant to Task Initiative VII.B.5 in the Department's Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the DNFSB Recommendation 94-2. The Department has completed the initial actions, i.e., submittal to Headquarters, for the Savannah River Site composite analysis and the Nevada Test Site Area 3 performance assessment and composite analysis identified under this task initiative and proposes closure of these parts of the commitment be considered complete. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact me at (202) 586-7710 or Mark Frei at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,



James M. Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:
Mark B. Whitaker, Jr., S-3.1