



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 30, 2001

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 is to inform you of the status of actions taken in response to your letter of August 29, 2000, in connection with the Hanford River Protection Program High-Level Waste Tank Integrity Project. Of the 17 actions committed in our letter of November 30, 2000, 15 have been completed or initially completed where recurring action is required. We continue to aggressively evaluate and implement corrections for causes of identified corrosion in tank AY-101, and to improve corrosion control in all of the tanks.

A portion of one commitment made in our letter will not be finished on time. The commitment is to adjust corrosion control chemistry for four double-shell high-level waste tanks by October 2001. Chemical additions to tanks AY-101 and AY-102 were completed satisfactorily. The adjustment to AN-102 is scheduled for September. Tank AN-107 adjustment will not be completed until February 2002. This caustic addition has been delayed, because the concentrated waste in this tank requires mixing with the added caustic, but the installed mixing pump was found inoperable. An available pump will be modified and installed in AN-107, then the caustic addition made by February 2002.

Your attention on this matter has been productive, as the discovery of significant corrosion in tank AY-101 demonstrates. The actions we are taking will help assure safety of high-level waste storage in the double-shell tanks, and support timely retrieval of waste from the older single-shell tanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson  
Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:  
M. Whitaker, S-3.1  
H. Boston, ORP



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