



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 2, 2001

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your August 14, 2001, letter which conveyed your concern about the need to incorporate the disposition requirements of DOE Order 430.1A in some present and future contracts at Hanford.

The Department recognizes the importance of DOE Order 430.1A, including its guides and standards, for achieving a safe disposition process that is seamless, timely and risk-based. My staff personally researched the issue and concluded disposition requirements were not incorporated in all Hanford contracts as of the July 31, 2001, date of the Board staff's report. Since then, the Department has worked to upgrade its agreements. The disposition requirements of DOE Order 430.1A are now contained in the applicable contracts for the Office of River Protection (ORP) and Richland Operations Office (RL). Details are provided below:

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bechtel National, Inc. (ORP) | DOE Order 430.1A requirement was incorporated on December 11, 2000 |
| CH2M Hill Hanford Group, Inc. (ORP) | DOE Order 430.1A requirement was incorporated on January 17, 2001 |
| Fluor Hanford, Inc. (RL) | DOE Order 430.1A requirement was replaced by verbatim contractor requirements document (CRD) on July 11, 2001 |
| Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (RL) | Verbatim CRD requirement was incorporated on July 19, 2001 |
| Battelle Memorial Inst. (RL) | Verbatim CRD requirement was incorporated on August 3, 2001. Prior to that date, the requirement was implemented using a special H-clause |



I share the Board staff's concerns regarding the importance of adequately implementing the Facility Inventory Management System (FIMS) and Condition Assessment Survey (CAS) at Hanford. My staff began working with RL and ORP in early August to see what could be done to accelerate compliance. As a result of the efforts, CAS inspections are now underway and RL and ORP are planning to complete loading the 22 critically designated FIMS data fields by November 28, 2001.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessie Hill Roberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: Mark Whitaker, S-3.1
Keith Klein, RL
Harry Boston, ORP