



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 10, 2003

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to provide an interim status to your April 10, 2003, letter regarding Sludge Removal at Hanford. As a result of proposals developed by the Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, I directed my Chief Operating Officer to review site recommendations and current status. His findings indicate that additional effort is needed to develop a more credible path forward consistent with the Environmental Management mission to provide for safe and effective operations. This activity is expected to be complete within the next 45 days. A full report will be provided to you at that time.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Paul Golan, Chief Operating Officer, at (202) 586-0738.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: Mark Whitaker, DR-1

