

May 22, 2002

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Abraham:

In 1994, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) submitted to the Secretary of Energy Recommendation 94-1, *Improved Schedule for Remediation in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex*. This Recommendation addressed the need to stabilize and safely store large amounts of fissionable material. The Board was particularly concerned with the thousands of containers of plutonium-bearing residues at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS).

The Board notes that RFETS recently completed stabilization and repackaging of more than 100 metric tons of plutonium-bearing residues, meeting the milestone established by the Department of Energy (DOE) in its Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1. This accomplishment required ingenuity and perseverance on the part of RFETS personnel. The Board commends the DOE and RFETS for completing this significant milestone toward the goal of stabilizing fissionable materials as encouraged in Recommendation 94-1.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Jessie Hill Roberson
Ms. Barbara A. Mazurowski
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.