



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 30, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Richland Operations Office has submitted the "Performance Assessment for the 200 East Area Burial Grounds," (WHC-SD-WM-TI-730, Rev. 0) to Headquarters for review. Site completion of this performance assessment is a commitment pursuant to Task Initiative VII.B.5.b.1 in the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2. A copy of the performance assessment has been provided to a member of your staff.

The assessment evaluates the performance of the Hanford Site 200 East Area Burial Grounds relative to the low-level waste performance objectives contained in DOE Order 5820.2A. Headquarters will proceed with its technical adequacy and compliance review of the performance assessment to complete that portion of our commitment by April 30, 1997. This assessment is the first step in the process to complete an evaluation of projected impacts to the public. The assessment will be augmented by a composite analysis that considers other radioactive source terms that may add to the dose projected for the burial grounds. Upon acceptance of both the performance assessment and the composite analysis, Headquarters will issue a disposal authorization statement for the 200 East Area Burial Grounds.

The Department has completed the initial action for the Hanford Site 200 East Area Burial Grounds performance assessment identified under this commitment and proposes that this part of the commitment be considered complete.

Sincerely,

Alicia L. Allen