

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

May 30, 2003

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DNE SAFETY BOARD

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 purpose of this memorandum is to address the concerns regarding interim storage of K-Basin sludge at the Hanford 221-T building (T-Plant) expressed in your letter of April 4, 2003. Environmental Management (EM) intends to operate the T-Plant only for sludge storage at this time in accordance with the requirements of the Documented Safety analysis. While it is true that future missions for this facility may be considered, this will not occur without a re-analysis of the safety bases in accordance with 10 CFR 834. Also, consideration will be given ACI 318, "Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete" in any new analyses performed prior to acceptance of any future waste streams or new missions for the facility.

EM will keep the Board informed of K-Basin sludge disposition plans and potential to facility utilization changes. If you have further 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

Enclosure

cc: Mark Whitaker, DR-1
Keith Klein, RL



03.0887

6-2974(F)
→ Hank Himpler

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Richland Operations Office

DATE: APR 30 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: WMD:RFG/03-WMD-0188


SUBJECT: UPDATE REGARDING NATURAL PHENOMENA ANALYSIS OF THE T PLANT
FACILITY AT HANFORD

TO: Paul M. Golan
Chief Operating Officer, EM-3, HQ

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an update regarding the receipt of future waste streams at the T Plant Complex and to provide a response to the DNFSB letter to Assistant Secretary Jessie Hill Roberson, EM-1, from John T. Conway, dated April 4, 2003.

The Hanford Site is in the process of identifying future facilities necessary to process waste streams that cannot be managed through existing commercial and DOE capabilities (e.g., remote handled transuranic waste). The Hanford Site has established T Plant facility as one of the initial facilities required to meet these needs. K Basin sludge is an archetypical waste stream, needing storage prior to future processing to meet Waste Isolation Pilot Plant requirements for remote handled transuranic waste. The DNFSB indicated their concurrence in the April 4, 2003, letter with the suitability of T Plant to store K Basin sludge. RL will operate the T Plant facility, including the receipt and storage of K Basins sludge, per the Documented Safety Analysis. Receipt of any new waste streams, or new missions at T Plant will require reanalysis in accordance with 10 CFR 830. As part of this review process, the adequacy of the structure will be evaluated to address DNFSB concerns regarding the American Concrete Institute, ACI 318, "Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete," and other natural phenomenon nonconservativisms in the earlier analysis.

If there are any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Acting Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.



Keith A. Klein
Manager

cc: T. J. Hull, EM-43
J. E. Rhoderick, EM-6

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