April 26, 1991

The Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On April 25, 1991, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, in accordance with Section 312(5) of Public Law 100-456, approved Recommendation 91-3 which is enclosed for your consideration.

Section 315(A) of Public Law 100-456 requires the Board, after receipt by you, to promptly make this recommendation available to the public in the Department of Energy's regional public reading rooms. Please arrange to have this recommendation placed on file in your regional public reading rooms as soon as possible.

The Board will publish this recommendation in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

John T. Conway
Chairman

Enclosure
RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
pursuant to Section 312(5) of the
Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Dated: April 25, 1991

The Board and its staff have received several status briefings and have conducted several site visits to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). These reviews were directed at ensuring adequate protection of public health and safety during conduct of the test phase at the WIPP facility.

During a recent briefing on the WIPP Project, Department of Energy (DOE) personnel described twelve separate reviews, appraisals, and assessments by various DOE offices, contractor, and State oversight organizations that have been conducted at WIPP since October 1988. Since DOE's review of the readiness at WIPP was spread over approximately a three year period, the Board is concerned that DOE does not intend to perform a final comprehensive readiness review, after completion of the contractor's readiness review, prior to the initiation of the test phase. Therefore, the Board recommends:

1. that an independent and comprehensive DOE readiness review be carried out at WIPP prior to initiation of the test phase. As indicated in item 2, members of the review team may include some personnel from the line organization;

2. that the team constituted to carry out the readiness review consist of experienced individuals whose backgrounds collectively include all important facets of the unique operations involved and that the majority of the team members be independent of WIPP programmatic or line management responsibilities to ensure an independent and unbiased assessment;

3. that the DOE readiness review team confer with the DOE teams that are currently performing readiness reviews at other DOE facilities to determine what procedures for conducting readiness reviews have or have not been effective, recognizing that a tailored approach is required for WIPP; and

4. that the review include, but not be limited to, the following items:

   a. assessment of the adequacy and correctness of waste handling and utility systems normal and abnormal operating, and emergency procedures;

   b. assessment of level of knowledge achieved during operator qualification as evidenced by review of examination questions and examination results, and by selective oral examinations of operators by members of the review team;
c. assessment of conduct of operations by observation of actual waste handling operations using simulated waste containers, and the response to simulated abnormal and emergency situations;

d. assessment of the interrelationships and the delineation of roles and responsibilities among the various DOE (Carlsbad and Albuquerque) and contractor (Westinghouse and Sandia National Laboratory) organizations involved in the test phase;

e. examination of records of tests and calibration of safety systems and other instruments monitoring Limiting Conditions of Operations or that satisfy Operating Safety Requirements; and

f. verification of safety system as-built drawings by walkdown of selective systems.

John T. Conway, Chairman
ACTION: Notice; recommendation.

SUMMARY: The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has made a recommendation to the Secretary of Energy pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2286a concerning the need for a comprehensive readiness review by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) prior to initiation of the test phase at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The Board requests public comments on this recommendation.

DATES: Comments, data, views, or arguments concerning this recommendation are due on or before May 31, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, data, views, or arguments concerning this recommendation to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 425 Indiana Avenue NW., suite 700, Washington, DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth M. Pusateri or Carol J. Council, at the address above or telephone (202) 206-6400.


John T. Conway, Chairman.

The Board and its staff have received several status briefings and have conducted several site visits to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). These reviews were directed at ensuring adequate protection of public health and safety during conduct of the test phase at the WIPP Facility.

During the recent briefing on the WIPP Project, Department of Energy (DOE) personnel described twelve separate reviews, appraisals, and assessments by various DOE offices, contractor, and State oversight organizations that have been conducted at WIPP since October 1986. Since DOE's review of the readiness at WIPP was spread over approximately a three year period, the Board is concerned that DOE does not intend to perform a final comprehensive readiness review, after completion of the contractor's readiness review, prior to the initiation of the test phase.

Therefore, the Board recommends:

1. That an independent and comprehensive DOE readiness review be carried out at WIPP prior to initiation of the test phase.

2. That the team constituted to carry out the readiness review consist of experienced individuals whose backgrounds collectively include all important facets of the unique operations involved and that the majority of the team members be independent of WIPP programmatic or line management responsibilities to ensure an independent and unbiased assessment.

3. That the DOE readiness review team confer with the DOE teams that are currently performing readiness reviews at other DOE facilities to determine what procedures for conducting readiness reviews have or have not been effective, recognizing that a tailored approach is required for WIPP; and

4. That the review include, but not be limited to, the following items:

a. Assessment of the adequacy and correctness of waste handling and utility systems normal and abnormal operating, and emergency procedures;

b. Assessment of level of knowledge achieved during operator qualification as evidenced by review of examination questions and examination results, and by selective oral examinations of operations by members of the review team;

c. Assessment of conduct of operations of observation of actual waste handling operations using simulated waste containers, and the response to simulated abnormal and emergency situations;

d. Assessment of the interrelationships and the delineation of roles and responsibilities among the various DOE (Carlsbad and Albuquerque) and contractor (Westinghouse and Sandia National Laboratory) organizations involved in the test phase;

e. Examination of records of tests and calibration of safety systems and other instruments monitoring limiting Conditions of Operations or that satisfy Operating Safety Requirements; and

f. Verification of safety system as-built drawings by walkdown of selective systems.

John T. Conway, Chairman.
the Board will publish this recommendation in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

John T. Connaw.
Chairman.

Enclosure

[FR Doc. 91-10274 Filed 4-30-91; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9250-KD-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[FDDA No. 84.400]

Invitation for Fiscal Year 1991

Applications Under the School

Construction in Areas Affected by

Federal Activities Program for Fiscal Year 1992 Funds

Purpose of Program: To help

compensate school districts for the cost

of educating children when enrollment

and the availability of revenues from

local sources have been adversely

affected by federal activities. The

Secretary provides direct grants for the

construction or remodeling of urgently

needed minimum school facilities.

Section 5 of Public Law 81-415

authorizes assistance for school

construction in local educational

agencies experiencing an increase in

membership due to federal activity

carried on either directly or through a

contractor. Eligibility is determined by

the increase in the number of children

living on federal property or with a

parent employed on federal property.

Section 8 authorizes construction

assistance to school districts

experiencing a temporary federal

impact, either directly or through a

contractor. Section 14 authorizes

assistance for certain school districts

that serve children residing on Indian

lands, or that are significantly burdened

by the presence of nonfederal federal

property and have a substantial number

of inadequately housed pupils. Section 8

authorizes assistance that supplements

certain awards made under sections 5, 9,

and 14 of Public Law 81-415.

Notice is given that the Secretary of

Education has established a closing date

for the transmittal of applications for

assistance under sections 5 and 9 of

Public Law 81-415, based on increase


(An increase period is a period of four

successive regular school years during

which a school district has experienced

a substantial increase in school

membership as a result of new or

increased federal activities.) This

closing date also applies to applications

for assistance under sections 6 and 8

of Public Law 81-415, as well as

appropriation levels for Fiscal Year 1992.

Applications are due at the

Department of Education, 400 Maryland

Avenue, SW, Room 3117, Washington, DC

20202-6244. Telephone: (202) 401-

8680. Requests to make oral presentations

must be made by March 31, 1991. Written

presentations must be received 5 days

prior to the meeting.

For Information Contact:

School Facilities Branch, Impact Aid Program,

Program Operations Division, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland

Avenue, SW, Room 3117, Washington, DC

20202-6244. Telephone: (202) 401-

8680.

Available Funds: For fiscal year

1992, the Administration has requested

$5,000,000 for sections 5 and 14(c), and

$5,000,000 for sections 14(a) and 14(b).

Applications for assistance under these

programs will be accepted only if a

State educational agency that serves the

applicant local educational agency

receives the application by the

 Appropriable Regulations: (a) The

Education Department General

Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in

34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 83, 84, and 89;

and (b) the regulations for this program

in 34 CFR part 415.

For Information Contact:

School Facilities Branch, Impact Aid Program,

Program Operations Division, U.S.

Department of Education, 400 Maryland

Avenue, SW, Room 3117, Washington, DC

20202-6244. Telephone: (202) 401-

8680. Deaf and hearing impaired

individuals may call the Federal Dual

Party Relay Service 1-1-100-877-6389.

The Washington, DC area code, (800) 660-

770, notice is hereby given of a

meeting of the

Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency Joint Ventures Advisory

Committee, Open Meeting

Under the Federal Advisory

Committee Act (Public Law 96-404, Stat

7770), notice is hereby given of the

following meeting:

Name: Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency Joint Ventures Advisory

Committee (REEJAC).

Date and Time: May 21, 1991, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;

May 22, 1991, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Place: Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee

Highway, Rosslyn, VA.

Contact: Elaine S. Guthrie, Office of

Technical Assistance (CE-514), Conservation

and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of

Energy, Washington, DC 20585, Telephone

202-586-1218.

Purpose of Committee: To advise the

Secretary of Energy on the development of

the solicitation and evaluation criteria for

joint ventures, and on otherwise carrying

out his responsibilities under the Renewable

Energy and Energy Efficiency Technology

Competitiveness Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-218,


Tentative Agenda: Briefings and

discussion of:

• Introduction of Committee Members and

Appointment of Committee Chair;

• Board's statutory responsibilities;

• Committee Procedures;

• Background Information on Public Law

101-218, Joint Ventures, Procurement, and

Specific Technologies;

• Establishment of a Working Executive

Committee;

• Criteria for Selection of Joint Venture

Projects;

• Other Matters Requiring Board

Consideration and Public Comment Period

(10 minute rule).

Public Participation: The meeting is open
to the public. Written statements may be

filed with the Committee, either before or after

the meeting. Members of the public who wish to

make oral presentations pertaining to agenda

items should contact Elaine Guthrie at

1-202-686-877-6389 prior to the meeting.

Reasonable provisions will be made to

include the statement in the agenda. The

Chairperson of the Committee is empowered to

determine the order of business.

Transcripts: The transcript of the meeting

will be available for public review and

copying within 30 days of the Freedom of

Information Public Reading Room 15-195,

Federal Building, 1000 Independence

Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m.

and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except

Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC, on April 30,


Howard H. Raiken,

Advisory Committee/Monogram Officer.

[FR Doc. 91-10228 Filed 4-30-91; 8:05 am]
BILLING CODE 4560-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Conservation and

Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency Joint Ventures Advisory

Committee, Open Meeting

Under the Federal Advisory

Committee Act (Public Law 92-463, Stat

7770), notice is hereby given of the

following meeting:

Name: Renewable Energy and Energy

Efficiency Joint Ventures Advisory

Committee (REEJAC).

Date and Time: May 21, 1991, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;

May 22, 1991, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Place: Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee

Highway, Rosslyn, VA.

Office of Fossil Energy

[FE Docket No. 90-63-NG]

Chippewa Gas Corp.; Order Granting

Blanket Authorization To Import

Canadian Natural Gas

AGENCY: Department of Energy, Office of

Fossil Energy.

ACTION: Notice of an order granting

blanket authorization to import

Canadian natural gas.