

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

June 17, 2004

2004 JUN 17 10:51 AM
MAIL ROOM

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to request a 60-day extension in order to fully respond to the issues in your May 3, 2004, letter on the Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) for the Mobile Waste Characterization and Loading Units for the Central Characterization Project at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Although we have met with your staff to discuss some of the issues, we need additional time to address all of the concerns and possibly revise the BIO and the application guide. We will continue to work closely with your staff to reach an acceptable path forward.

The request for extension has been discussed with your staff. If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or have your staff contact Mr. Dae Chung, Director, Licensing Office, at (301) 903-3968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessie Hill Roberson".

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: Mark Whitaker, Jr., Departmental Representative
U.S. Department of Energy

