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**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

FEB 19 1999

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

**SUBJECT: Reservoir Storage in Highly Invulnerable Encased Safes (HIVES)**

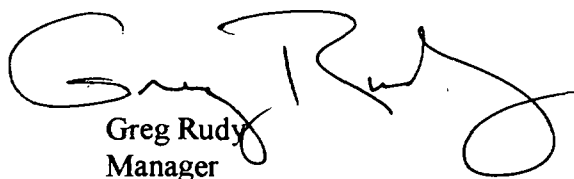
In my letter of July 10, 1998, the Savannah River Site committed to a plan and schedule to relocate tritium loaded reservoirs in long-term storage to HIVES in the 217-H vault by March 31, 1999. It was acknowledged that a working inventory, expected to be less than 500 reservoir equivalents, would remain. I am pleased to report the commitment has been met ahead of schedule. Additional HIVES were installed in October 1998. The inventory first dropped below 500 reservoir equivalents in December 1998. In January of 1999, the inventory dropped to below 200 reservoir equivalents.

While this inventory will vary according to production schedules, it is still planned to maintain the inventory below 500 reservoir equivalents. Both the U. S. Department of Energy and Westinghouse Savannah River Company will periodically monitor performance.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the original performance indicator showing our progress toward completion of the commitment.

Please direct any questions to me or W. J. Brumley at (803) 208-3688.

Sincerely,



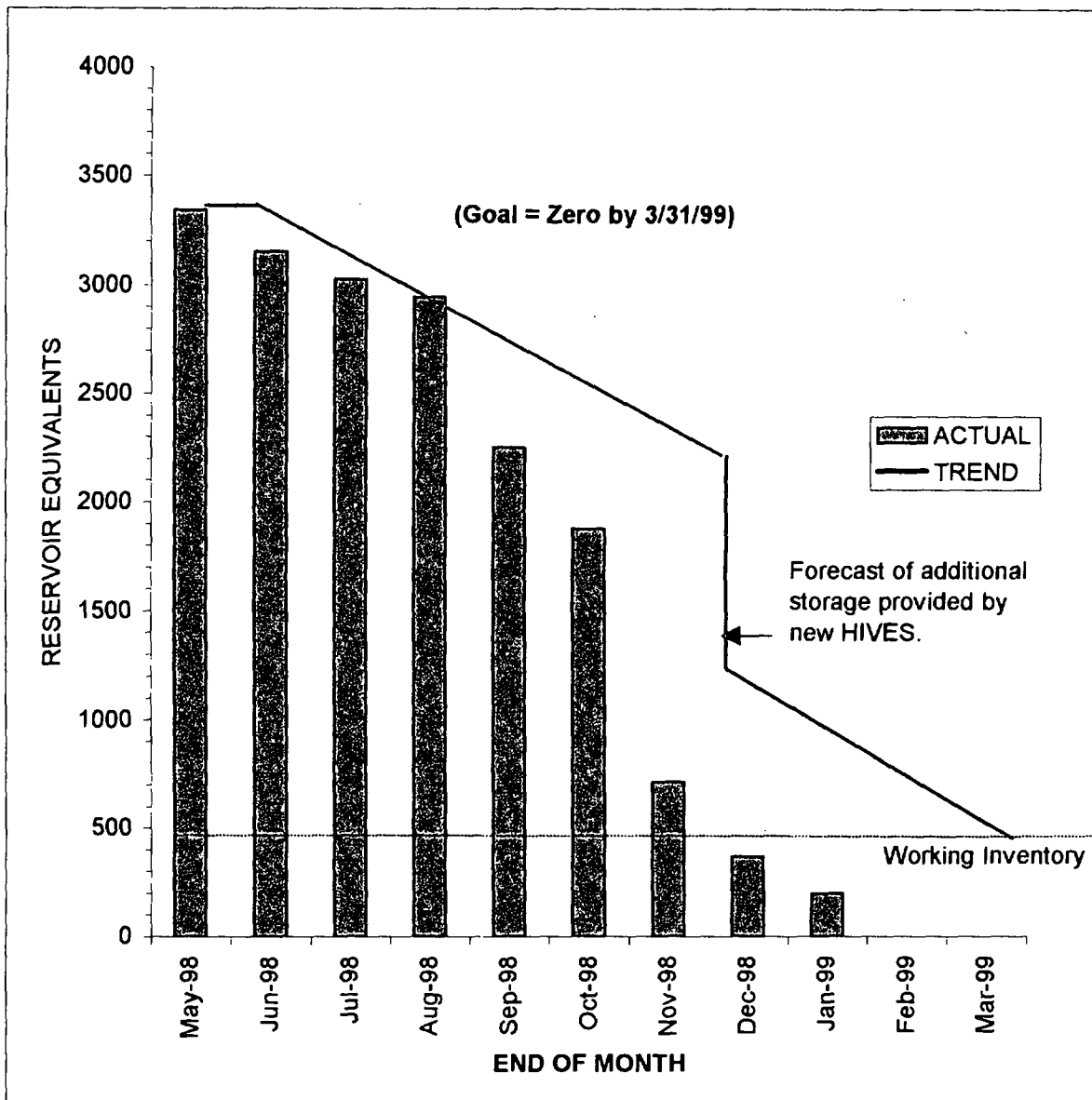
Greg Rudy  
Manager

RA-99-0004

Enclosure:  
Performance Indicator

cc w/encl:  
T. Davis, 719-14A, DNFSB  
J. Deloach, DNFSB

# TRITIUM-FILLED RESERVOIRS IN VAULT STORAGE OUTSIDE OF HIVES



**GOAL:** Eliminate storage of reservoirs outside of HIVES by 3/31/99.

**BASIS:** Data represents all reservoirs stored in Vidmar Cabinets and on carts in Vault 275. An estimated working inventory of 500 reservoirs is needed to support operations.

**STATUS:** We continue to work unloading efforts as a high priority. Installation of HIVES units was completed in October. Reservoir placement into the new HIVES was completed in November. The goal was met in December for the first time.