



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 29, 1998

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of September 11, 1998, to Secretary Richardson forwarding a list of selected schedule milestones on the Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. We believe they are a reasonable yardstick for measuring near-term project performance.

Enclosed is a brief status summary of the first ten of those milestones (i.e., those expected to be completed before the end of October 1998). These milestones were discussed with me during my recent visit to Richland on September 21, 1998. We will keep your staff informed of our progress on these and other important project issues.

As discussed during the public meeting of September 22 on Integrated Safety Management, DOE has deferred the completion date of item number 16 on your list, Readiness Declaration for Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Phase 2 verification, to Fall 1999 in order to give the contractor's new ISMS team sufficient time to develop a quality product.

Fluor Daniel International reaffirmed, in writing, to their Hanford employees their commitment to Federal work and to the Hanford site. Further, Ron Hanson, President of Fluor Daniel Hanford, has written to Richland Operations Office Manager John Wagoner to reaffirm their commitment to the Spent Nuclear Fuel project and its completion in accordance with the new schedule negotiated with EPA.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or have a member of your staff call Brad Nelson at (301) 903-4393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Owendoff".

James M. Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

Status of Milestones for Progress Assessment
Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>
1.	8/31/98	Aluminum hydroxide issue.	Completed.
2.	9/30/98	Uranium oxidation rate issue.	The test laboratory's thermogravimetric analyzer was not functioning for several days awaiting parts. Work is now re-started. Will miss 9/30/98 date. Currently evaluating when item will be completed.
3.	9/30/98	Multi-canister overpack (MCO) monitoring issue.	On track for completion.
4.	8/31/98	Recommend resolution of 12 MCO design issues.	11 of 14 completed, remaining 3 are due 9/25/98.
5.	9/1/98	DOE-RL approve cold vacuum drying (CVD) Phase 2 Safety Analysis Report.	Safety Evaluation Report completed 8/31/98. Approval delayed to resolve open issues.
6.	9/18/98	Complete CVD first-article testing/available for Installation.	Testing completed. DOE is reviewing report which was delivered on 9/18.
7.	9/22/98	DOE-RL approve final Safety Analysis Document for Fuel Retrieval System in K-W Basin.	Completed early.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------|---|--|
| 8. | 10/1/98 | Start installation of Integrated Water Treatment System equipment in K-W Basin. | On track. Distribution piping installation to begin. |
| 9. | 10/21/98 | Begin fabrication of Canister Storage Building storage tubes. | Completed. |
| 10. | 10/21/98 | Complete installation of queue tables in K-W Basin. | Completed. |