

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

March 31, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the "[Low-Level Waste Program Management Plan](#)." This Plan is a deliverable pursuant to the commitment in Task Initiative IV.B.5 identified in the Department's Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 94-2. The Plan also contains the guidance and criteria for sites to use when considering disposal options that was specified as part of the Task IV.B.4 and committed to be provided in the Low-Level Waste Program Management Plan.

The Low Level Waste Program Management Plan (the Plan) is one of the products of the systems engineering process for low-level waste management. The Plan is based on the System Description Document, which defined the requirements, functions, and interfaces for the Department's low-level waste system, and the Complex-Wide Review, which identified vulnerabilities associated with the management of low-level waste. The document outlines the programmatic strategies, policy initiatives, and assumptions for achieving a complex-wide integrated low-level waste management program. The Plan also identifies the key management interfaces organizational structure, and the division of roles and responsibilities between Headquarters and Field Elements. The Plan describes the near-term and longer-term actions, milestones and responsibilities necessary to achieve the desired future state of the low-level waste program. The Plan also includes commitments from the Department to continually assess the effectiveness of the low-level waste program. In particular building on the 1996 Complex-Wide Review, the Department is committing to periodic complex-wide assessments of data collected primarily from field audits and performance metrics. The periodic assessments of the program will assure continued safe and effective low-level waste management activities and operations, as well as continuous improvement to the program.

This Plan is also intended to be used by the Office of Waste Management in achieving its Ten-Year Plan to complete cleanup at its nuclear sites within the decade. The implementing principles and the goals for low-level waste management in the Low-Level Waste Program Management Plan and the Ten-Year Plan are the same.

The Department has completed the actions identified under this commitment and proposes closure of the commitment.

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: M. Whitaker, S-3.1