



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

MAY 27 1998

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

SUBJECT: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 96-1 Deliverables

REFERENCE: Ltr, Schepens to Conway, "Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 96-1 Implementation Plan - Suspension of Restart Activities at the In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) Facility", 3/3/98

Enclosed are the following reports which are submitted in accordance with the DNFSB Recommendation 96-1 Implementation Plan:

1. Studies on the Stability of Solid Tetraphenylborate Compounds (Milestone # 5.2.2-2)
2. Actual Waste Confirming Studies (Milestone # 5.2.2-4)
3. Benzene Retention Mechanisms, Capacities, and Laboratory Release Studies (Milestones # 5.2.3-1, 5.2.3-2, 5.2.4-1, 5.2.4-3 & 5.2.4-4)

Two additional reports are currently being finalized and are expected to be issued in late June 1998. The first report is the "Report on Soluble Tetraphenylborate Decomposition Studies" (Milestone # 5.2.2-1). The second report is a topical report which will summarize the results of the ITP chemistry program, address the overall safety of the tetraphenylborate chemistry products remaining in Tanks 48 and 49, and identify any outstanding open items. In consideration of the ongoing Salt Disposition Alternatives Evaluation described to you in the referenced letter and upon issuance of these two reports, no further action is recommended until the alternatives evaluation has been completed.

A briefing will be scheduled with you to discuss the status and path forward of 96-1 issues prior to the issuance of the above mentioned topical report. It is anticipated that this briefing will be scheduled for late June 1998, in conjunction with a briefing on the status of the HLW Salt Disposition Alternatives Evaluation.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations Office, has completed the actions for the deliverables identified under Milestones 5.2.2-2, 5.2.2-4, 5.2.3-1, 5.2.3-2, 5.2.4-1, 5.2.4-3 and 5.2.4-4 and proposes their closure. These deliverables have been previously provided and discussed with your staff.

J. T. Conway

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Please direct any questions to me or W. F. Spader at (803) 208-7409.

Sincerely,


Roy J. Schepens
Acting Assistant Manager
for High Level Waste

ED:JWM

PC-98-0040

Enclosures:

1. Studies on Stability
2. Actual Waste Confirming Studies
3. Benzene Retention Mechanisms

cc w/o Enclosures:

G. Rudy, Acting Manager, SR
M. W. Frei (EM-30), HQ
R. E. Erickson (EM-32), HQ
W. F. Spader, ED, 704-S
A. B. Poston, AMESHQ, 703-47A
M. B. Whitaker, Jr., (S-3.1), HQ