June 8, 1990

Honorable James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Admiral Watkins:

By law, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is required to

"... review and evaluate the content and implementation
of the standards relating to the design, construction,
operation, and decommissioning of defense nuclear
facilities of the Department of Energy (including all
applicable Department of Energy orders, regulations, and
requirements) at each Department of Energy defense
nuclear facility...." [Section 312(1), Atomic Energy Act
of 1954, as amended]

In its review and evaluation, the Board has enlisted the assistance
of the MITRE Corporation, and will be comparing standards used by
Department of Energy (DOE) with those which govern the licensing
and regulation of commercial nuclear facilities.

As a first step, the Board directed MITRE to examine the content of
applicable DOE Orders and supplements issued by the Savannah River
Operations Office and, in evaluating their content, to compare them
with similar Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements. A
draft report has been prepared and is presently under review. The
Board is providing DOE advance notice of our intent to release the
report and an opportunity to review and comment on it. We are also
providing NRC an opportunity to review the draft report.

We intend to release the report to the public on June 27, 1990. If
you wish to have DOE comments appended to the report, when
released, please arrange to have them submitted to the Defense

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John T. Conway
Chairman