



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 15, 1999

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 1999, transmitting the results of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board review of safety analyses for the Replacement High-Level Waste Evaporator at the Savannah River Site (SRS). We plan to honor the commitments documented in the Board's Staff Issue Report dated November 9, 1999.

With respect to the Board's observation of a recent change to site-wide guidance for the functional classification of equipment, we too believe that functional classification, surveillance, and maintenance of systems and components that protect Safety Analysis Report (SAR) assumptions should be commensurate with the safety consequences of failing to maintain operations within the limits assumed in the SAR. In parallel with the Board, we will monitor the application of this change in functional classification regarding "initial conditions" to accident analyses at the SRS.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mark W. Frei at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn L. Huntoon".

Carolyn L. Huntoon
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

