



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

MAR 26 1998

98-SCD-033

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:

DELAY IN COMPLETING DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION 93-5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP), REVISION 1, MILESTONE 5.4.3.1.D, "APPROVED FINAL SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORT (FSAR)"

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that submittal of DNFSB Recommendation 93-5 IP, Revision 1, Milestone 5.4.3.1.d, "Approved Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR)," is delayed beyond the current target date of March 31, 1998. The original milestone completion date was June 30, 1997. You were notified of the schedule slip on June 13, 1997, and in our quarterly report covering April through June 1997.

The contractor transmitted the FSAR to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL) on August 14, 1997. At that time RL initiated a rigorous Tier II Review. The Tier II Review of this complex document has extended longer than originally planned due to several factors including:

- Detailed study and documentation of accident analysis and assumptions;
- Expert review of each safety program;
- Extensive DOE order compliance evaluation; and
- Editorial quality of submitted FSAR.

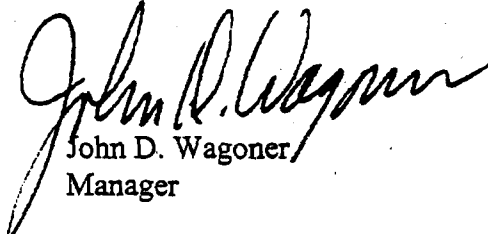
The FSAR represents an improvement over the Basis for Interim Operation, which was implemented at the end of September 1997. Specifically, the FSAR provides improvements in RL's and the contractor's ability to screen unreviewed safety questions, the derivation of safety equipment, integrating the hazard analysis into the authorization basis (AB), and integrating safety management programs with the AB. Therefore, approval of the FSAR is a key step in RL's continuing effort to improve safety and safety documentation.

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RL is currently developing a new planning basis for completion of FSAR approval and implementation incorporating Tier III Review and coordination with the Integrated Environment, Safety, and Health Management System. You will be notified of the results of this planning, including a date for FSAR approval, by April 30, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Steve Wiegman, Tank Waste Remediation System, on (509) 372-2536.

Sincerely,



John D. Wagoner
Manager

SCD:JAP

cc: K. T. Lang, EM-38
R. G. Lightner, EM-38
J. M. Owendoff, EM-1
C. A. Peabody, EM-4
M. B. Whitaker, S-3.1