



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 11, 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:

Enclosed is a memorandum of acceptance and a compliance evaluation for the "Radiological Performance Assessment for the Z-Area Saltstone Disposal Facility," WSRC-RP-92-1360, December 1992. Site completion and Headquarters review and action on this performance assessment is a deliverable pursuant to the commitment in Task Initiative VII.B.5.b.1 identified in the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2.

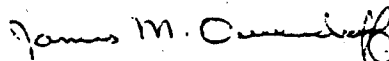
The assessment evaluates the projected performance of the Savannah River Site Saltstone Disposal Facility relative to the low-level waste performance objectives in DOE Order 5820.2A. As reported previously, the Headquarters review found that, with conditions, the assessment was technically valid and provided a reasonable expectation of meeting the DOE Order 5820.2A performance objectives in all areas except groundwater protection. Originally there was insufficient information to draw a conclusion about the groundwater protection performance objective. The necessary information has been provided and the conclusion of the Headquarters review is that the assessment is acceptable in meeting the groundwater protection performance objective. This assessment, combined with a composite analysis, now under review, will provide the basis for issuance of a disposal authorization statement for the Saltstone Disposal Facility.

As you and your staff are aware, DOE is currently reevaluating the high-level waste salt separation process. Any impacts to Saltstone that may occur as a result of the alternative selected will be revisited at that time.



DOE has completed the actions for the Saltstone Disposal Facility performance assessment identified under this commitment and proposes that this part of the commitment be considered complete.

Sincerely,



James M. Owendoff
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: Mark B. Whitaker, Jr., S-3.1