



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585
November 18, 2002

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 cooperation while we worked to resolve the issues raised by your staff regarding the design of safety-related aspects in the Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) undergoing construction at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Department appreciates the objective views from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on this subject and, likewise, is very interested in improving/adding design features to enhance the safety of the TEF. The enclosed responses have been discussed with your staff to reach a consensus on the issues. Formal concurrence with the Department's responses to the issues is requested to properly document the project's path forward with regard to this matter.

The enclosed letter from B. D. Smith to C. H. Ramsey provides a compilation of responses to the issues raised to date by the DNFSB staff concerning the TEF project. As indicated in the enclosure, several responses are dependent on future project activities to facilitate closure. These items will be tracked on the TEF Project action item tracking system until such time as closure/incorporation of actions is completed.

Thank you again for your input and support as we continue with the construction and testing phases of the TEF project. Should you have any questions or concerns relative to this matter, please contact me at (202) 586-2179 or Mike Hickman at (803) 952-7195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Everet H. Beckner".

Everet H. Beckner
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:
M. Whitaker, EH-9

