



The Under Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

1999-00430

June 18, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter regarding your staff's visit to the Savannah River Site in February 1999 to review the Department's progress on resolving the benzene generation issues associated with the In-Tank Precipitation Process, and selecting a preferred alternative to process the high-level waste salts.

The suggestions of your staff have been reviewed by my staff and by staff members within the Savannah River High-Level Waste Program. The suggestions are consistent with the Department's expectations regarding issues and options that require review. In light of the recent Secretarial decision to contract out the Alternative Salt Processing work, the Department will ensure that the opportunities identified by your staff are reviewed thoroughly.

We appreciate the efforts of the Board and your staff in working with the Department to assist us in the resolution of these complex issues and look forward to the continuance of this relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest J. Moniz".

Ernest J. Moniz

cc: Mr. Mark Whitaker
Departmental Representative

