



Department of Energy
Office of River Protection
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352
JUL 08 1999

99-PDD-052

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:

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB) RECOMMENDATION
93-5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP), REVISION 1, MILESTONE 5.6.3.1j, "LETTER
REPORTING COMPLETION OF CORE SAMPLING OF ALL TANKS"**

The attached report, "Technical Basis for the Determination that Current Characterization Data and Processes are Sufficient to Ensure Safe Storage and to Design Waste Disposal Facilities," HNF-4232, Revision 0, dated June 23, 1999, summarizes the progress made by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) of core sampling the 177 High-Level Waste (HLW) Tanks at Hanford. The report is submitted to meet the requirements of the subject milestone.

To date, 132 of Hanfords 177 HLW Tanks have had condensed-phase samples drawn from them and are considered to be adequately safety screened. A tank-by-tank analysis was performed for the remaining tanks, which concluded that additional characterization information is not required to demonstrate continued safe storage of the tank waste. ORP has completed the actions and proposes closure of this commitment.

ORP intends to continue safety screening the remaining tanks as they are sampled for other needs, primarily those of the disposal program. We would be pleased to have an opportunity to brief the DNFSB on this issue.

Sincerely,

Richard T. French, Manager
Office of River Protection

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Enclosure

cc: See Page 2