



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 10, 2003

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 letter concerning the Safety Bases for the K-Area Material Storage (KAMS) Facility, Building 235-F, and FB-Line at the Savannah River Site. Your letter requested clarification of, or action related to, issues identified during a review that is part of an overall safety assessment undertaken in response to the Public Law 107-314, section 3183, *Study of Facilities for Storage of Plutonium and Plutonium Materials at Savannah River Site*.

First and foremost, the Department is committed to performing its missions safely. The Department believes that these facilities are safe to carry out their current missions, including the storage of plutonium received from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. Furthermore, the Department will take all steps necessary to assure that these facilities will continue to operate safely as mission needs evolve. The KAMS Safety Basis documents are being revised to reflect the potential additional storage capacity and the previous decision to extend the life of the facility. The Building 235-F Safety Basis is being upgraded to reflect the new storage and surveillance missions and resulting extended facility life. Responses to specific issues raised in your letter are enclosed.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Jessie Hill Roberson, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Abraham".

Spencer Abraham

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Jessie Hill Roberson, EM-1
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr., DR-1
Mr. Jeffrey M. Allison, Manager, DOE-SR



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