



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

March 20, 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**:

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 1998, concerning the **electrical**, control and fire **protection** systems of the **Hanford** Spent Nuclear Fuel **Project**. We intend **to identify** root causes **and** take permanent **corrective** actions to **address** the **findings** from your staff's review of December 9-11, 1997. The Office of Field **Management is** coordinating complex-wide implications of the transformer issue. We anticipate sending a final response to you no later than April 13, 1998.

sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Owendoff".

James M. **Owendoff**  
Acting Assistant **Secretary for**  
Environmental Management