



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 13, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Conway:

I have reviewed the status of our Implementation Plan for Recommendation 90-7. The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed these activities to resolve the safety issues raised in Recommendation 90-7 (see enclosure 1). The Recommendation suggested that DOE enhance temperature measurements, monitoring, waste characterization, chemical reaction studies, and emergency planning for the Ferrocyanide waste tanks at Hanford.

Aging experiments and tank samples have demonstrated that waste aging has degraded the Ferrocyanide deposited in these tanks and support the conclusion that the tanks no longer pose a Ferrocyanide safety hazard. To confirm aging under worst case conditions, Hanford has sampled nine Ferrocyanide tanks, including C-108, C-109, C-111, C-112, BY-104, BY-108, BY-110, T-107 and TY-104. Results from the four tanks which received the most concentrated Ferrocyanide sludges (i.e., C-108, C-109, C-111, and C-112) show very low Ferrocyanide concentration (enclosure 2) supporting our conclusions. BY-104, BY-108, and BY-110 core samples are now being analyzed as a part of our ongoing effort to characterize tank wastes in the Recommendation 93-5 Implementation Plan. Results from the BY-tank samples are also expected to confirm Ferrocyanide aging; however, if they do not the Recommendation 93-5 Implementation Plan will be revised to address this issue.

Based on these actions and studies, and the fact that we have already sampled 9 of the 18 Ferrocyanide tanks (see Ferrocyanide Quarterly Reports [WHC-EP-0474-series] and enclosure 3), I will send you a copy of the final report in the latter part of 1996.

If you have any questions regarding this request or need additional information, please call me at 202-586-7710.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Guimond
Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

3 Enclosures

