



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 31, 1995

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

ES95-005793
(Background)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is the Department of Energy Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-2, Conformance with Safety Standards at Department of Energy Low-Level Nuclear Waste and Disposal Sites, of September 8, 1994. The Department shares the Board's concern to evaluate the adequacy of standards and practices used in the disposal of low-level radioactive waste to identify any necessary corrective actions to address safe disposition of past, present, and future waste.

The Implementation Plan describes the actions the Department is taking in response to the Board's recommendation which includes the following:

- Complex-Wide assessment of the Department's low-level waste management practices to determine potential worker or public health and safety related concerns.
- A regular program for forecasting future disposal needs relative to existing capacity.
- Studies and assessments directed at improving low-level waste management practices, including volume reduction, and safety merits/demerits of privatization of disposal operations.
- More immediate steps to complete low-level waste performance assessments covering all waste disposed.

If you have further questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Rear Admiral Richard Guimond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7710.

Sincerely,


Hazel R. O'Leary

Enclosure