



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

DEC 30 1997

97-WDD-193

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 92-4 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (IP), MILESTONES 5.2.1 (A) "DEVELOP A TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATION FOR THE TANK WASTE REMEDIATION SYSTEM (TWRS) INITIAL TANK RETRIEVAL SYSTEM PROJECT" AND 5.2.1(B) "PROVIDE A BASELINE COMPARISON REPORT FOR THE FIRST TANK RETRIEVAL SYSTEM IN THE TWRS INITIAL TANK RETRIEVAL SYSTEM PROJECT"

This letter is to advise the DNFSB of a delay in the completion of the subject milestones, which are identified under the DNFSB Recommendation 92-4 IP, Revision 2N.

The Systems Specification for the Double-Shell Tank System, HNF-SD-WM-TRD-007, Rev. B, which is a major component required to meet milestone 5.2.1(a), is substantially complete but the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) wishes to complete additional studies and modeling to reduce the uncertainty in key requirements prior to submission of the document. Since the deliverable for the first milestone is required to complete the second milestone, both milestones will be delayed.

DOE is in the process of assessing the steps that will be required to successfully complete the milestones and expects to provide the DNFSB with milestone completion dates by January 31, 1998. We recently discussed these commitments with your staff during a video teleconference (VTC). Following the VTC, a copy of the most recent Systems Specification for the Double-Shell Tank System was provided to your staff. We will continue to keep your staff informed of our activities as we solidify the new dates for these milestones.

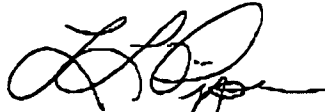
The Honorable John T. Conway
97-WDD-193

-2-

DEC 30 1997

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me, or your staff may contact Jackson Kinzer, Assistant Manager for the Tank Waste Remediation System, on (509) 376-7591.

Sincerely,



John D. Wagoner
Manager

WDD:BLN

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

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