

John T. Conway, Chairman  
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# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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December 6, 1999

The Honorable T. J. Glauthier  
Deputy Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

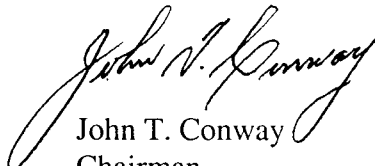
Dear Mr. Glauthier:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) recently received the final version dated November 9, 1999, of a proposed revision to the Department of Energy (DOE) long-term plutonium storage standard, DOE-STD-3013-99, *Stabilization, Packaging, and Storage of Plutonium-Bearing Materials*. DOE has been working on this latest revision for more than a year in an effort to broaden the scope and to resolve several operational concerns. The Board endorsed earlier revisions of this standard in Recommendation 94-1, *Improved Schedule for Remediation in Defense Nuclear Facilities Complex*. The Board has reviewed the proposed changes and concludes that they are acceptable.

The revised standard specifies that only materials that are represented in the Los Alamos National Laboratory Materials Identification and Surveillance Program may be packaged for long-term storage. The Board believes that this requirement will play an important role in ensuring that the standard does not allow packaging of materials that could result in unsafe conditions during storage. The Board requests to be informed how this requirement will be implemented by DOE's field activities.

The Board continues to endorse use of this standard throughout the DOE complex. The Board continues to encourage DOE to place its hazardous materials in a stable form and in robust packaging in a timely manner as set forth in Recommendation 94-1. Packaging of material in accordance with the long-term plutonium storage standard will give DOE the opportunity to develop a sound, fiscally responsible approach toward storage and ultimate disposal of its excess plutonium materials and provides assurance that the materials will remain in a safe configuration in the interim.

Sincerely,

  
John T. Conway  
Chairman

- c: The Honorable Carolyn L. Huntoon  
Brigadier General Thomas F. Gioconda  
Ms. Laura S. H. Holgate  
✓Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.