

[DOE LETTERHEAD]

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Albuquerque Operations Office has submitted the "Performance Assessment and Composite Analysis for LANL Material Disposal Area G" (LAUR-97-85) to Headquarters for review. Site completion of the performance assessment and the composite analysis are commitments pursuant to Task Initiative VII.B.5, in the Department of Energy's Implementation Plan, Revision 1, for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2. A copy of the performance assessment and composite analysis, which are combined in a single document, has been provided to your staff.

The document presents an evaluation of the performance of the Los Alamos National Laboratory burial grounds relative to the low-level waste performance objectives contained in DOE Order 5820.2A, and an analysis of the potential offsite impacts of other sources of radioactivity combined with those from the low-level waste burial grounds. Headquarters will, as committed, complete its review of the performance assessment portion of the document by December 31, 1997. The composite analysis review will be completed no later than March 1998, as committed, and may be finished in conjunction with the performance assessment review. Upon acceptance of both the performance assessment and the composite analysis, Headquarters will issue a disposal authorization statement for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Area G Disposal Facility.

The Department has completed the initial actions for the Los Alamos Area G Disposal Facility performance assessment and composite analysis identified under this task initiative and proposes that these parts of the commitment be considered complete.

Sincerely,

Alvin L. Alm

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

cc: M. Whitaker, S-3.1