

[SOE LETTERHEAD]

June 11, 1992

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:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 1992. I agree with your understanding of the status of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) recommendations mentioned in your letter.

Recommendation 90-4, Operational Readiness Reviews (ORR) at Rocky Flats, will remain open until the required ORRs have been completed. Because of the significant programmatic changes at Rocky Flats, we will submit a separate plan for those facilities that are planned for transition to a cleanup status.

Recommendation 91-5, Power Level of K-Reactor Operations, will remain in an open status contingent upon any decision by the Department of Energy (DOE) to exceed 30 percent power. As I mentioned in my April 13, 1992, letter, at present DOE has no intention to increase reactor power level to greater than 30 percent.

Recommendation 90-1, Operator Training at Savannah River Facilities Prior to the Restart of K-Reactor, will remain open. In accordance with the implementation plan, this will allow DOE to enhance the qualification and training program subsequent to K-Reactor restart.

Recommendations 91-3, Operational Readiness Review at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and 91-4, Operational Readiness Review at Rocky Flats Building 559, have been fully implemented and closed.

Recommendation 90-3 is closed, having been expanded and superseded by Recommendation 90-7.

I hope that this letter ensures there are no misunderstandings between DOE and the DNFSB regarding our action on open Board recommendations. Please contact me should you have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)