

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

December 14, 2004

2004 DEC 17 AM 10:00

The Honorable John T. Conway  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Under Secretary Garman's letter dated October 13, 2004, regarding the adequacy of the Department of Energy (DOE) natural phenomena hazards design standards and the performance category designation for the conceptual design of the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site, indicated that the Office of Environmental Management would provide a briefing to you within 60 days.

Based on subsequent discussions with the Board and its staff on confinement strategy and our desire to incorporate any impacts from potential changes to applicable DOE directives, I propose our briefing to the Board occur by February 28, 2005.

We will continue to work with your staff to ensure worker and public safety are adequately protected by the facility design with respect to the natural phenomena hazards. If you have any further questions, please call me at (202) 586-7709 or Mr. Dae Y. Chung, Director, Office of Licensing, at (301) 903-3968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Golan".

Paul M. Golan  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Environmental Management

cc:  
M. Whitaker, DR-1  
J. Allison, DOE-SR  
J. Shaw, EH-1

