

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

September 6, 2000

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The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your August 18, 2000, letter expressing concern with the Savannah River Site contractor's practice relative to the classification and design of systems for the Americium/Curium Vitrification Project. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

On September 6, your staff was briefed on the process and methodology for conducting the back fit analysis and other issues raised in your letter. The DOE will keep you informed on the progress and results of the analysis. We will schedule a briefing for you, as requested in your letter, within the next two months. At that time we will address the issues raised in your letter and in your staff's report enclosed with that letter.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Mark Frei at (202) 586-0370.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn L. Huntoon".

Carolyn L. Huntoon
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc:

Mark Whitaker, Jr., Department of Energy, S-3.1
Randal Scott, Department of Energy, EM-5
Greg Rudy, Savannah River
Roy Schepens, Savannah River
R. Erickson, Savannah River

