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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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99-0002986



December 22, 1999

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-1000

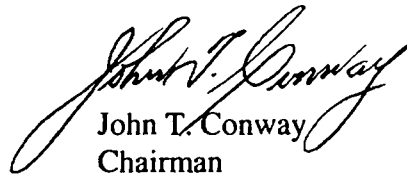
Dear Secretary Richardson:

On November 18, 1999, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) was briefed by cognizant staff of the Department of Energy (DOE) on the status of Board Recommendation 94-2, *Conformance with Safety Standards at Department of Energy Low-Level Nuclear Waste and Disposal Sites*. We are now in receipt of your December 20, 1999, letter proposing closure of the recommendation.

The Board notes that programs developed in response to the recommendation for appropriately managing DOE's low-level waste now appear to be institutionalized. The Board strongly encourages DOE to preserve these newly institutionalized low-level waste management programs. The Board is particularly interested in the preservation of the Composite Analysis process, whereby all potentially interacting source terms are evaluated in siting low-level waste disposal facilities.

On the basis of the information presented at the briefing, the Board is satisfied that DOE has met all substantive implementation plan commitments for the recommendation. Further, the Board is confident that the few remaining longer-term deliverables under the implementation plan will be completed as scheduled in the coming year. Consequently, the Board considers that Recommendation 94-2 is now closed.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

c: The Honorable Carolyn L. Huntoon
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.