

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

June 26, 1996

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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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is an interim reply to your letter to Mr. Thomas P. Grumbly of June 17, 1996, transmitting the March 28, 1996, trip report of your staff's review of Hanford tank safety issues and inactive facilities.

The Richland Operations Office and Headquarters are working together to address each of the observations in detail. We will provide a response to each of your questions by July 31, 1996.

We appreciate your observations. One of our seven principles is to eliminate the most urgent risks. Tom Grumbly and I share the goals of having the Department proactively identify our problems, take ownership, and do the right things. We are committed to working with John Wagoner and his management team to ensure that the ongoing safety improvements and reengineering efforts at the Hanford Site are comprehensive and timely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvin L. Alm".

Alvin L. Alm
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

