



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

September 22, 2009

The Honorable John Mansfield
Vice Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Vice Chairman:

Enclosed is the Department of Energy's revised Implementation Plan (IP) which addresses the remaining open commitments for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's Recommendation 2001-1, High-Level Waste Management at the Savannah River Site (SRS). This revision reflects completion of commitments that were enabled by resolution of several regulatory and legal issues. This IP revision also addresses the three remaining open commitments identified in the March 31, 2009, letter from former Chairman Eggenberger: 1) Commitment 2.14, "Startup the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF)"; 2) Commitment 3.9a; "Return Tank 48 to Unrestricted Tank Farm Service"; and 3) Commitment 3.10, "Startup a Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) evaporator."

First, this IP revision reflects a new date of October 2015 for CD-4, Approve Start of Operations or Project Completion for SWPF, based on a new baseline. The subsequent introduction of radioactive salt waste for processing in SWPF (i.e., begin SWPF radioactive operations) is forecast for December 2015. Second, the revision reflects a new date for returning Tank 48 to unrestricted service (Commitment 3.9a) of December 2014, based on selection of a new technology that was not reflected at the time of the previous IP revision. Third, this IP revision replaces Commitment 3.10 "Startup of a DWPF Evaporator" with a new commitment, Commitment 3.12 "Reduce DWPF Recycle by 1.25 million gallons per year." Finally, this IP includes several additional planned measures to mitigate the risks of delaying the remaining commitments.

If you have any further questions, please call me or Dr. Inès R. Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

Enclosure