

John T. Conway, Chairman
A.J. Eggenberger, Vice Chairman
John W. Crawford, Jr.
Joseph J. DiNunno
Herbert John Cecil Kouts

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 208-6400



October 25, 1993

The Honorable Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Restoration and Waste
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

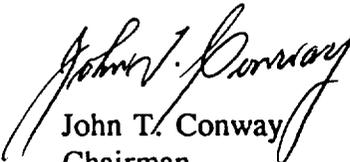
Dear Mr. Grumbly:

Enclosed for your consideration and action, where appropriate, are a number of observations contained in two separate trip reports concerning packaging, storage, and inspection of special nuclear materials at the Rocky Flats Plant. These observations were developed by members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) staff and outside experts. These observations are based on reviews of available documents, and discussions with Department of Energy (DOE) staff and contractor personnel at Rocky Flats on July 19-22, 1993 and September 22-23, 1993, with subsequent discussions involving Board members, staff, and outside experts.

The Board wishes to call your attention to the large number of metal plutonium items stored in plastic bags, the plutonium solutions, and some categories of residues. The status of the metal evaluation and repackaging program, the solution stabilization program, and studies apparently being conducted to assess the immediacy of hazards posed by the various residues will continue to be of extreme interest to the Board in the near future. The Board requests that DOE provide their plans and priority for dealing with these issues.

If you need further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,


John T. Conway
Chairman

c: Dr. Tara O'Toole, EH-1
Mark Whitaker, Acting EH-6
Dr. Victor H. Reis, DP-1

Enclosure: (1) Trip Report for the DNFSB Staff Review of Special Nuclear Material Issues
at the Rocky Flats Plant
(2) Report on Plutonium Storage