



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 28, 2003

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:

The purpose of this letter is to forward to you Revision 1 of the Savannah River Site (SRS) High-Level Waste Tank In-Service Inspection Program (ISIP) (Enclosure 1) as requested in your June 11, 2002, letter. This revised document incorporates the previous commitment to inspect all of the Type III/IIIA waste tanks and addresses your concerns regarding tank selection criteria and acceptance criteria for inspection results. Additionally, following discussions with your staff, the Department has decided to further revise the attached ISIP schedule in order to complete examination of all of the Type III/IIIA waste tanks by the end of 2007. A revised ISIP schedule will be provided to you by July 21, 2003. The Department is committed to adjusting the SRS ISIP as necessary, should inspection results indicate the existence of or potential for accelerated degradation in the Type III/IIIA waste tanks.

Also enclosed is a copy of a review (Enclosure 2) undertaken as a comparison of ISIPs for the Office of River Protection (ORP) and SRS. The review compares the two respective ISIPs with the *Guidelines for Development of Structural Integrity Programs for DOE High-level Waste Storage Tanks*, BNL-52527, January 1997. These guidelines were developed by a committee of experts known as the Tank Structural Integrity Panel (TSIP), and are recognized in DOE G 435.1 as providing an acceptable process for establishing a high-level waste tank structural integrity program. Both sites use the TSIP guidelines as the technical basis for their ISIPs. Both the ORP and the SRS ISIP conform to the TSIP guidelines as detailed in Enclosure 2.



If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely,



Paul Golan  
Chief Operating Officer  
Office of Environmental Management

**Enclosure**

cc: Mark Whitaker, S-3.1