The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 1, 2004

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2941

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are pleased to submit to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board the enclosed report concerning decommissioning of our Savannah River Site F-Canyon facility. This report was mandated by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2001 and 2004. Subsection (b) of section 3137 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398), as amended by subsection (b) of section 3115 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), requires that, prior to expending any funds for the purpose of commencing decommissioning F-Canyon, the Secretary of Energy submit this report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Board.

F-Canyon began operations in the early 1950s for the primary purpose of providing strategic isotopes for nuclear weapons in support of the Nation's defense programs. More recently, the facility was operated to stabilize legacy Cold War nuclear materials for safe long-term storage. All chemical separation activities in F-Canyon were completed in March 2002, and the last remaining material in the facility that required stabilization was removed from the facility in January 2003. Since November of last year F-Canyon has been undergoing deactivation, which includes such activities as removal of hazardous materials, draining and flushing tanks and piping, and de-energizing nonessential systems. Significant progress has been made in deactivation, and since there is no need for the capabilities of F-Canyon in the future, the Department will soon commence decommissioning activities in order to permanently retire F-Canyon from service.

If you have any further questions regarding this report, please contact me or Mr. Rick A. Dearborn, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham

Spencer Abraham

Enclosure

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The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 1, 2004

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are pleased to submit to your committee the enclosed report concerning decommissioning of our Savannah River Site F-Canyon facility. This report was mandated by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2001 and 2004. Subsection (b) of section 3137 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398), as amended by subsection (b) of section 3115 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), requires that, prior to expending any funds for the purpose of commencing decommissioning F-Canyon, the Secretary of Energy submit this report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

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If you need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Rick A Dearborn, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham

Enclosure
cc: The Honorable Carl Levin
Ranking Minority Member

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The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 1, 2004

The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are pleased to submit to your committee the enclosed report concerning decommissioning of our Savannah River Site F-Canyon facility. This report was mandated by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2001 and 2004. Subsection (b) of section 3137 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398), as amended by subsection (b) of section 3115 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), requires that, prior to expending any funds for the purpose of commencing decommissioning F-Canyon, the Secretary of Energy submit this report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

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If you need additional information, please contact me or Mr. Rick A Dearborn, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham

Enclosure
cc: The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Minority Member

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