



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington, DC 20585

August 25, 2008

The Honorable A. J. Eggenberger  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that we will require a 30-day extension to respond to your letter of July 8, 2008, concerning the long-term fidelity of the weapon trainer units at the **Pantex** Plant. The additional time is needed to ensure any actions that may be contemplated by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are coordinated among all entities within the nuclear weapons complex that support the design, development, manufacture, and maintenance of weapon trainer units.

The staff issue report enclosed with your letter indicated that the training and qualification at **Pantex** met the requirements of DOE Order 5480.2A, classroom training and numbers of drills conducted were adequate, and that issues associated with the training and qualification program at **Pantex** are identified and resolved. These observations suggest a well-developed training and qualification program at **Pantex**. NNSA will provide you with the requested information concerning the long-term fidelity of the weapons trainer units at **Pantex** by October 6, 2008.

Any questions concerning this extension request may be directed to me at 202-58612179 or Gerald Talbot, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety and Operations, at 202-58612181.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Smolen", is written over a large, stylized, circular scribble.

Robert L. Smolen

Deputy Administrator  
for Defense Programs

cc: T. D'Agostino, NA-1  
W. Ostendorff, NA-2  
M. Whitaker, HS-1 .1

