



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 2, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 5, 2010, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) provided a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concerning a self conducted review of the quality assurance aspects of the hydrogen in pipes and ancillary vessels (HPAV) experimental test program for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. Specifically, the letter requested that DOE provide a response that addresses the quality assurance and safety concerns identified, including flow down of quality assurance requirements to subcontractors and more rigorous application of consensus quality standards to contractor and subcontractor quality assurance programs. The Board requested a response within 60 days of receipt of the letter.

The purpose of this letter is to request a 45-day extension for responding to your May 5, 2010, request. DOE has been diligently working to respond to the original 60 day request date and has made significant progress. However, to completely ensure we have adequately and completely addressed all the Board concerns, DOE is currently performing an extensive review of previous internal quality assurance assessments performed across the Office of Environmental Management complex. This review will take some additional time; however, it will allow us to be fully responsive to your request. In the meantime, DOE will continue dialog with your staff, as requested, to keep you apprised of the status of the response.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709 or Dr. Steven L. Krahn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inés R. Triay".

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

