



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 29, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your July 27, 2010, letter to Secretary Chu regarding the allegations in [REDACTED] letter dated July 16, 2010. As we discussed yesterday, the Department will take all steps necessary to cooperate fully with your investigation and to make certain that material information is preserved from alteration or destruction so that the Board has the opportunity to exercise its statutory investigative authority.

The Department has taken action in response to your request to preserve needed information. In particular, on July 29, Dr. Inés Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management sent an email to Federal staff directing that relevant information be preserved (enclosure 1). Additionally, the responsible Department of Energy Contracting Officer provided analogous instructions to the two primary contractors working on [REDACTED] (enclosures 2 and 3).

I also want to inform you that Assistant Secretary Triay has referred [REDACTED] letter to the Department's Inspector General with a request that he investigate the allegation of retaliation, and to our Office of Health, Safety and Security to investigate safety concerns within that office's jurisdiction (enclosures 4 and 5). As you know, DOE considers it vital that it conduct its own internal investigation into these safety issues. We will, of course, work with your staff to make sure that DOE's internal investigation does not in any way interfere with the Board's efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Dr. Triay at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Poneman", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel B. Poneman

Enclosures

