



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 25, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On August 5, 2010, you transmitted a letter to me requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) provide a briefing and report outlining the activities that DOE planned to take to address deficiencies identified by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) staff during their visit to the Hanford Tank Farms in May 2010.

On October 18, 2010, DOE responded to the Board with a number of commitments. Additionally, on October 28, 2010, DOE and the Hanford Tank Farms contractor briefed the Board on the various concerns identified in its letter. Since then DOE and the contractor have been further evaluating the strategy which was briefed to the Board.

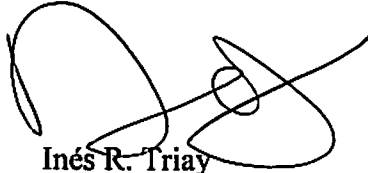
As a result of this evaluation Jonathan A. Dowell, Acting Manager, Office of River Protection, wrote the Board's Technical Director on February 10, 2011, describing the path forward for improving the Double Shell Tank (DST) ventilation system and updated a number of commitments included in my October 2010 letter. These commitments included both near-term actions and upgrades to DST ventilation systems over a longer timeframe.

As noted in the February 10, 2011, letter, DOE is changing the planned completion date for updating the Tank Farm Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) (identified in my October 2010 letter to the Board), to the end of June 2011. Additionally, Environmental Management Headquarters staff will review the changes to the DSA to verify completion of corrective actions that address findings from our review of the implementation of specific administrative controls at the tank farm, as well as monitor the upgrade activities.



If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Kenneth G. Picha, Jr., Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: R. Lagdon, CNS
D. Chung, EM-2
C. Anderson, EM-3
K. Picha, EM-20
M. Campagnone, HS-1.1