



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

February 28, 2011

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reference to your February 8, 2011 letter concerning potential revisions to the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project Nuclear Facility safety strategy and design. The Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) sent a letter to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs dated December 20, 2010 proposing several changes to the CMRR project and design. As you know, the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs issued a memorandum on February 4, 2011, describing our path forward to analyze the proposals and directing LANL not to proceed with any design changes until NNSA provides additional direction. Once we have completed our analysis, we will share this information with you and solicit your input prior to reaching our conclusions. This is to inform you that our analysis will not be completed within the 30 days and to propose that the briefing you requested be postponed until the results of the analysis can be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. James McConnell, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Operations, and Governance Reform at (202) 586-4379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. P. D'Agostino".

Thomas P. D'Agostino  
Administrator

