



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



November 15, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Energy (DOE) has completed Deliverable 5.2.3 of the Department's Implementation Plan (IP) for Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory [LANL] Plutonium Facility [PF-4] Seismic Safety*. Deliverable 5.2.3 is National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) approval of the refined accident analysis and control selection for the post-seismic fire scenario. On October 13, 2011, the NNSA Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) approved the PF-4 refined accident analysis and control selection resubmitted by LANL on September 19, 2011.

The PF-4 refined accident analysis and control selection approved by NNSA result in mitigated consequences to the maximally exposed offsite individual that are on the order of the Department's Evaluation Guideline of 25 rem Total Effective Dose Equivalent. However, this approval represents an interim step in our longer term approach to safety at PF-4. As noted in my September 29, 2011, letter to you regarding Deliverable 5.4.5, *Project execution plan for [structure, system, and component] SSC upgrades*, NNSA is working with LANL to develop and implement controls that will further reduce the mitigated consequences of postulated accidents at PF-4 to a fraction of the Evaluation Guideline. We are also continuing to perform seismic analyses to confirm that the facility structure meets the performance criteria identified in the safety basis approved by LASO. Key preliminary results from this analysis are expected before May 2012 and completion is expected before July 2012.

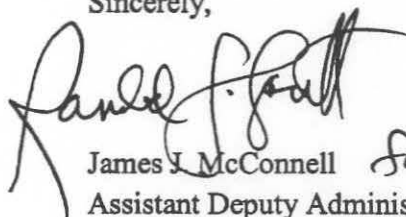
Deliverable 5.4.4, *Glove-box stand seismic upgrades*, was originally due in July 2011 per the IP for Recommendation 2009-2. This deliverable is the last open commitment in the IP. The approved refined accident analysis and control selection, completed as Deliverable 5.2.3, conclude that glove-box stand seismic upgrades should focus on glove-boxes that contain molten plutonium operations. This insight reduces the scope of Deliverable 5.4.4



to that small number of glove-boxes. Completion of design and start of construction on the glove-box stand seismic upgrades are expected before May 2012. At that time, Deliverable 5.4.4 will be complete.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-4379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. McConnell", written over a printed name.

James J. McConnell *for*  
Assistant Deputy Administrator  
for Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Operations,  
and Governance Reform  
Office of Defense Programs

cc: D. Nichols, NA-SH-1  
M. Campagnone, HS-1.1  
K. Smith, LASO