



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 23, 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 June 28, 2011, Secretary Chu restated his acceptance of your Recommendation 2010-2, *Pulse Jet Mixing at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*, published in the *Federal Register*. The Department of Energy (DOE) is obligated to provide an Implementation Plan (IP) for this Recommendation within 90 days of the publication of my acceptance of the Recommendation. However, DOE may take an additional 45 days if more time is needed. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. §2286d(e), DOE is taking an extension of 45 days to prepare the 2010-2 IP.

DOE is coordinating with your staff on specific actions we will take to address your Recommendation. Our discussions with your staff on our approach indicate we are nearing agreement on our proposed actions for six of the seven sub-recommendations included in 2010-2. We are making progress toward reaching agreement on the remaining issue regarding validation and verification of the computational fluid dynamics model.

Based on the most recent input from your staff, DOE is:

- Improving descriptions of requirements and testing objectives;
- Determining how objectives are met in the areas of sampling, large scale vessel testing, and simulant selection;
- Providing additional detail on how we will use expert review in the area of computational fluid dynamics;
- Providing additional detail on how tank farms will be integrated into the operation of the treatment plant; and
- Identifying additional milestones to aid in tracking our progress.

Additional time for incorporating these additions and improvements in the IP is needed; you will have DOE's IP no later than November 10, 2011. This notification is also being provided to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. David Huizenga, Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, at (202) 586-7709.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel B. Poneman



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