



The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 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:

Thank you for your April 8, 2011, letter addressing concerns with the computer program System for the Analysis of Soil-Structure Interaction, with a request for a report and briefing within 45 days.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is preparing a response to your request, based on input from the Offices of Environmental Management; Health, Safety and Security; Science; and the National Nuclear Security Administration. DOE requests a 45-day extension to provide the briefing and written response, which will be submitted to you no later than July 7, 2011.

As you are aware, the DOE Chief of Nuclear Safety (CNS) has been coordinating this issue for some time. The response will be more complete if DOE staff is allowed additional time for this effort. In addition, the CNS and other DOE experts are planning to discuss this topic with the Board's staff as we work to finalize the response. This discussion is being scheduled for early June 2011.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Chip Lagdon at (202) 586-0799.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Poneman".

Daniel B. Poneman

