



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 31, 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:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is pleased to inform the Board of a change in the responsible organization for overall execution of the Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2007-1. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) will now function as the designated lead organization responsible for these commitments, and Mr. Jeffrey L. Roberson is designated the Responsible Manager for that function. We appreciate your advice on this matter and will continue to work closely with your staff to address gaps in training and qualification; equipment capabilities; directives; research and development; quality assurance; and oversight.

Three actions specified in the IP remain to be completed. Since the acceptance of the Recommendation, only one Environmental Management (EM) facility – the Plutonium Finishing Plant at Hanford – currently relies upon *in situ* measurements for criticality safety. This facility is undergoing accelerated decommissioning and will likely be demolished before the site-specific Recommendation 2007-1 actions have been completed. EM and NNSA will continue to interface on the completion of programmatic Recommendation 2007-1 actions, including development of new departmental standards and revisions to directives.

As you know, I am fully committed to continuous improvement in the use of *in situ* nondestructive assay techniques DOE-wide to support nuclear criticality safety in the activities carried out at DOE's defense nuclear facilities.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Roberson at (301) 903-9228.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Poneman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel B. Poneman

cc: Inés R. Triay, EM-1
Thomas P. D'Agostino, NA-1
Mari-Josette Campagnone, HS-1.1

