

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



June 27, 2012

Mr. David McCoy  
Executive Director  
Citizen Action New Mexico  
P.O. Box 4276  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196-4276

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2012, regarding nuclear safety at the Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) and other facilities at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) appreciates your concern and continues to provide close oversight of the safety of defense nuclear activities at SNL.

Regarding your request to receive and review the Board's letter concerning quality assurance and software quality assurance at the ACRR, the Board completed its review and sent a letter to the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) on April 18, 2012. The Board's Technical Director e-mailed a copy of the letter to you on April 19, 2012; it is also posted on the Board's website at [www.dnfsb.gov](http://www.dnfsb.gov).

In response to the Board's February 28, 2012, letter to NNSA, SNL personnel implemented new material limits at the ACRR that significantly reduce the postulated radiological dose consequence to the public for the most bounding accident scenarios, including an earthquake. Senior NNSA managers expressed to the Board their personal commitment to pursue additional corrective actions and submit a formal corrective action plan to the Board by the end of June 2012. The Board plans to post the NNSA document on our website upon receipt. The Board remains committed to ensuring that NNSA personnel operate defense nuclear facilities at SNL in a safe manner.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone