



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 23, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a letter dated March 2, 2012, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) stated that the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan (IP) for Board Recommendation 2011-1, *Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP)*, was an acceptable response to the Recommendation. The Board noted that consistent with the IP and in parallel with its development, DOE's Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) independently reviewed the WTP safety culture. The Board requested in its letter that DOE update the IP using information gained from the HSS review report and provide an updated IP by April 30, 2012.

As stated in the Secretary's letter of December 27, 2011, forwarding the IP to the Board, and in the IP itself, in the course of executing the IP information may be developed which leads DOE to take additional action. The Deputy Secretary stated in his February 28, 2012, letter to the Board transmitting the HSS report (Action 1-2 of the IP) that DOE will update the IP as needed.

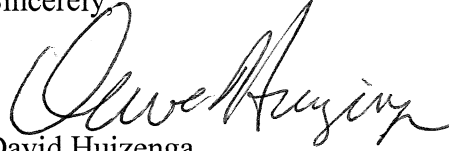
In accordance with the IP, both the Office of River Protection and the WTP contractor are developing action plans responsive to the issues identified in the HSS report. Development of these action plans is scheduled for April 2012. DOE will transmit the action plans to the Board when they are approved. Because the action plan development and approval concludes in April, the requested date of April 30, 2012, is not achievable for development, and approval by the Secretary, of any necessary additions to the IP. DOE will be prepared to discuss the action plans at the Board's public hearing supplemental panel session on May 22, 2012, and expects that there may be pertinent insights developed at that meeting.

DOE will review the approved action plans to determine if any additions to the IP are needed, and develop any necessary additions, with a goal of having an addendum to the IP reviewed and approved by the Secretary and transmitted to the Board in July 2012. Since execution of the action plans will already be in progress, the time necessary to develop and approve any necessary addendum to the IP will not result in any delay of improvement actions.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. James Hutton, Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Programs, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Huizenga". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

David Huizenga  
Senior Advisor  
for Environmental Management

cc: T. D'Agostino, S-5  
G. Podonsky, HS-1  
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