



**Department of Energy**  
**National Nuclear Security Administration**  
Washington DC 20585

November 21, 2013

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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

Dear Chairman Winokur:

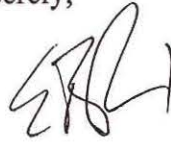
This is in response to your letter of August 26, 2013, regarding integration of safety into design on the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) project. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has prepared the enclosed report addressing the "Open Issues with the UPF Safety Basis" identified by your staff during their review of the UPF Preliminary Safety Design Report (PSDR). The enclosed report provides a status for each open technical issue from your letter, identifies any actions still needed to resolve each technical issue, identifies any potential design changes, and provides an initial schedule for when the resolution actions will be completed. As you mentioned in your letter, I am also encouraged by the progress that the UPF project has made to improve integration of safety into UPF's design. I am confident that the UPF project will continue to improve execution of an effective safety basis program that will ensure safety controls are identified and incorporated into design.

The second element in your letter relates to NNSA's safety basis review and approval process; specifically, oversight of control selection and evaluation. NNSA is committed to ensuring a robust safety basis review and approval process is in place. The NNSA Production Office (NPO) has requested independent individuals from the Environmental Management Office of Safety Management, the NNSA Office of Safety and Health, and the Office of Science to perform an independent assist review of the NPO safety basis review and approval process. These individuals will bring both independent and specific experience in the implementation of DOE-STD-1189, *Integration of Safety into the Design Process*. The scope of the review includes personnel (background and depth of the safety basis review team), procedures, and products (safety basis review plan, preliminary safety validation report). The review will focus on control selection and evaluation with special attention to worker safety controls and criteria.



NNSA will schedule a briefing on the enclosed report as soon as it is mutually convenient. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Teresa T. Robbins, Acting Senior Scientific and Technical Advisor, NPO, at (865) 576-0841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EBH', is positioned above the printed name.

Edward Bruce Held  
Acting Administrator

Enclosure