

Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman  
Sean Sullivan  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The purpose of this letter is to propose a joint effort to review the processes by which the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety (Board) interacts with the Department of Energy to identify potential safety issues in the design and construction of new DOE Defense Nuclear Facilities.

As you are aware, the Department and the Board issued a Joint Report to Congress in July of 2007 entitled, "Improving the Identification and resolution of Safety Issues during the Design and Construction of DOE Defense Nuclear Facilities". In the wake of that report, the Board implemented a transparent review process that includes formally communicating identified safety issues early in the design process. The goal of the process is to minimize schedule and cost impacts of resolving safety issues by identifying them as soon as design information is developed. We believe that the process achieves its goal, but we also believe that after eight years of experience with the process both our organizations might benefit from a joint review to identify any lessons learned or potential improvements. We expect a joint review will seek to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of both your organization and ours. We further expect a joint review to dovetail with the internal DOE improvement efforts.

The Board's point of contact for this effort is Dr. Adam Poloski and he can be reached at 202-694-7157.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Jessie H. Roberson  
Vice Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz