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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



January 3, 2017


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 Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is closing Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility Seismic Safety*. Since the recommendation was issued on October 26, 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) has made, and continues to make, numerous upgrades to improve the Plutonium Facility's capability to withstand the evaluation-basis seismic hazard. We note, however, that significant questions remain regarding the suitability of the Plutonium Facility (PF-4) for long term operations. The National Nuclear Security Administration is still working towards the completion of an alternate seismic analysis first committed to in 2012. Additional questions surround the adequacy of the fire suppression system (see our letter of May 12, 2016) and the opportunities to further reduce material-at-risk (see our Technical Report 39 dated September 21, 2015).

Given the improvements and the additional questions, it has become apparent the DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2009-2 no longer addresses the current state of safety at PF-4. Accordingly, we are closing the recommendation.

Sincerely,


Joyce L. Connery
Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz