



## The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 31, 2024

The Honorable Joyce Connery  
Chair  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chair Connery:

The Department of Energy (DOE or Department) received the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB or Board) letter on December 5, 2023, regarding the Board's concerns with proposed changes on the revision to DOE Order 425.1D, Verification of Readiness to Start Up or Restart Nuclear Facilities. The letter establishes a reporting requirement for DOE to provide the Board with a report and briefing by January 19, 2024, on two provisions in Draft DOE Order 425.1E: Allowing up to 18-Month Facility Shutdown Without Restart Readiness Reviews and Parallel Contractor and DOE Readiness Reviews.

The Department is evaluating and coordinating its response to the concerns outlined in the DNFSB letter. This evaluation and coordination will necessitate a 90-day extension to deliver a report and briefing to the Board.

We appreciate the Board and its staff working with DOE to ensure appropriate safety requirements, best practices, and lessons learned are included in the Order revision. We will continue to engage and keep your staff apprised of the changes. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Todd N. Lapointe, Director for Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security, at 202-586-6740.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Granholm".

Jennifer Granholm