

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair
Patricia L. Lee

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



December 20, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000


Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) received your letter dated October 7, 2024, enclosing the Department of Energy's (DOE) implementation plan for Board Recommendation 2023-1, *Onsite Transportation Safety*, dated January 26, 2024. Overall, the Board finds the implementation plan aligns with your acceptance of the recommendation on May 3, 2024.

The Board is encouraged that DOE plans to revise the relevant directives, ensure Los Alamos National Laboratory's transportation safety document (TSD) is revised, and conduct extent of condition reviews of other TSDs at sites with defense nuclear facilities. However, the Board notes the planned actions for sub-Recommendation 3 do not address the entirety of the underlying safety issue related to DOE oversight as described in the recommendation. The Board recommended DOE perform a causal analysis to identify the causes of, and take appropriate corrective actions to specifically address, the safety issues with DOE oversight of contractor TSDs and DOE management of onsite transportation directives. However, DOE's deliverable for sub-Recommendation 3 is a summary of "corrective actions for significant safety issues identified in the extent of condition reviews." The Board is concerned that DOE narrowing the scope of the safety issues considered to those identified by the extent of condition reviews of TSDs would likely preclude identifying corrective actions to the issues with DOE oversight that the Board identified in the recommendation.

The Board looks forward to continuing to engage with DOE as it improves the safety of onsite transportation activities at sites with defense nuclear facilities and appreciates DOE's continued communication with the Board's staff on development and execution of DOE's implementation plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joyce L. Connery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board

AFFIRMATION OF BOARD VOTING RECORD

SUBJECT: Board Response to DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2023-1

Doc Control#: 2025-200-0002

The Board acted on the above document on 12/18/2024. The document was Approved.

The votes were recorded as:

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIPATING	COMMENT	DATE
Joyce L. Connery	■					12/17/2024
Thomas Summers	■					12/17/2024
Patricia Lee	■					12/18/2024

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Board Members.

Shelby Qualls

Executive Secretary to the Board

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Board Member Vote Sheets

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Joyce L. Connery

SUBJECT: Board Response to DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2023-1

Doc Control#: 2025-200-0002

DATE: 12/17/2024

VOTE: Approved

COMMENTS:

None

Joyce L. Connery

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Thomas Summers

SUBJECT: Board Response to DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2023-1

Doc Control#: 2025-200-0002

DATE: 12/17/2024

VOTE: Approved

COMMENTS:

None

Thomas Summers

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET

FROM: Patricia Lee

SUBJECT: Board Response to DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2023-1

Doc Control#: 2025-200-0002

DATE: 12/18/2024

VOTE: Approved

COMMENTS:

None

Patricia Lee