

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 initial "J".

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

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