



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 25, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Connery:

The Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledges receipt of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board letter dated December 23, 2020, regarding the DOE revised Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2012-1, Savannah River Site Building 235-F Safety. The letter established a 60-day reporting requirement for a notification of the Department's intent to address the ventilation system items at Building 235-F that were described in the Board's letter.

As the Board's Staff was briefed in December 2020, DOE intends to ensure that the next revision of the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and supporting documentation appropriately document the technical basis for the performance characteristics and safety classification of the Building 235-F ventilation system. The ventilation system will be maintained and operated commensurate with the safety function derived from and documented in the DSA. The next revision to the DSA is anticipated to be delivered to DOE in the Spring of 2021.

In its December 2020 letter, the Board also requested an update within a year and annual updates thereafter regarding deactivation progress in Building 235-F, the results of radiological surveys and inspections to verify that contamination in the facility is not spreading, status updates on establishing a final end state determination with regulatory authorities, and the updated schedules for activities required to achieve such a final end state for the building. DOE will, as requested, provide the initial response within a year from now and subsequent annual updates on the topics the Board identified.

We appreciate the Board's perspectives and look forward to continuing positive interactions with you and your staff. If desired, DOE will brief the Board on the results of our ongoing analysis and revision to the DSA.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael D. Budney, Manager, Savannah River Operations Office, at (803) 952-7243.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga
Acting Secretary of Energy

cc: Tarak Shah, COS
Matthew Moury, AU-1
Joe Olencz, AU-1.1
Steven Petras, AU-1.1
Michael Budney, SR
William White, EM-1 (Acting)
Todd Shrader, EM-2
Erik Olds, EM-2.1 COS (Acting)
Allison Finelli, EM-2.1 DCOS
Michael Nartker, EM-2.1
Nicole Nelson-Jean, EM-3
Robert Crosby, EM-3
Craig West, EM-3
Gregory Sosson, EM-3.1
Brenda Hawks, EM-3.11/CNS (Acting)