

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



December 2, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

On September 8, 2021, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) sent a letter to the Department of Energy (DOE), which evaluated the technical basis for the May 1, 2019, Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) letter on evaluating waste containing mixtures of nitric acid or nitrate salts with polysaccharides. The Board communicated the CBFO letter lacks the technical basis to support that conclusion and issued a reporting requirement for a briefing and written report within 90 days on the actions DOE plans for safely managing these waste materials across the complex.

On November 17, 2021, DOE conducted the requested Board briefing but failed to provide the technical basis requested. DOE conveyed the need for additional time to consider the Board's technical questions prior to delivering the requested written report. Recognizing it may be difficult for DOE to formally request an extension in a timely manner, the Board hereby extends the deadline for submitting the written report to January 31, 2022.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz