

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair
Jessie H. Roberson

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



August 18, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) received your letter of June 27, 2022, enclosing the Department of Energy's (DOE) implementation plan (IP) for Board Recommendation 2020-1, *Nuclear Safety Requirements*. The Board finds the implementation plan to be consistent with your acceptance of the recommendation described in your final decision letter of September 8, 2021.

As the Board noted in its October 14, 2021, response to that letter, aspects of DOE's approach do not fully embrace some actions recommended by the Board. Nevertheless, the Board finds that execution of the IP could result in improvements to DOE's nuclear safety framework that are consistent with most of the objectives of the Board's recommendation. Achievement of these objectives will be contingent on DOE executing the elements of the IP with the goal of addressing the Board's safety concerns.

Interactions with your staff during development of the implementation plan were beneficial in assuring mutual understanding of safety issues and perspectives. The Board looks forward to continuing this productive engagement throughout the implementation process as well as engaging with you and your leadership team directly.

Sincerely,


Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz