



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



September 29, 2011

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Energy (DOE) needs until November 15, 2011, to complete Deliverable 5.2.3 of the Department's Implementation Plan (IP) for Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory [LANL] Plutonium Facility [PF-4] Seismic Safety*. Deliverable 5.2.3 is approval by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the refined accident analysis and control selection submitted by LANL on May 31, 2011. This additional time is needed by LANL to revise the accident analysis and control selection to address NNSA comments, and for NNSA to complete its review of the revised LANL submittal and issue a safety evaluation report.

Deliverable 5.4.5, *Project execution plan [PEP] for SSC upgrades*, has been completed and is enclosed. The enclosed PEP includes an initial strategy, cost, scope, schedule, and identified funding sources to complete a set of upgrades that ensure mitigated consequences no longer challenge the DOE 25 rem Evaluation Guideline for seismically-induced events. Please note that the Fiscal Year 2020 timeframe to complete the Active Confinement Ventilation (ACV) Upgrade Project is conservative. NNSA and LANL are reviewing this project to determine if the completion date can be accelerated. By January 31, 2012, NNSA will transmit a revised PEP to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board that addresses any needed input from the ongoing PF-4 Seismic Analysis of Facilities and Evaluation of Risk Project work. This revised PEP will also include an updated scope, cost, schedule and prioritization of the subprojects for Phase III of the TA-55 Reinvestment Project, including the ACV Upgrade Project.

In my July 20, 2011, letter to you, I stated that NNSA would address the path forward for Deliverable 5.4.4, *Glove-box stand seismic upgrades*, with the submittal of Deliverable 5.4.5. However, the path forward for these upgrades will not be finalized until completion of Deliverable 5.2.3. Therefore, DOE will also report on the path forward for Deliverable 5.4.4 by November 15, 2011.



If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-4379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. McConnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James J. McConnell
Assistant Deputy Administrator
for Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Operations,
and Governance Reform
Office of Defense Programs

Enclosure

cc: D. Nichols, NA-SH-1
M. Campagnone, HS-1.1
K. Smith, LASO