



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



FEB 03 2012

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in reference to your November 7, 2011, letter concerning the nuclear explosive safety (NES) issues at the Pantex Plant (Pantex). The letter provided the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) concerns with the tracking and closure process of NES findings and Senior Technical Advisor comments at Pantex. The letter also expressed the Board's concern with the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) use of consistent criteria for the characterization of NES issues at Pantex.

NNSA has been working with the Board's staff to address these issues. A briefing to the Board has been scheduled for February 8, 2012. An additional 30 days beyond the requested 90-day timeframe is needed to allow the incorporation of Board feedback from the briefing into our report.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (202) 586-2179 or have your staff contact Mr. Donald Brunell at (505) 845-5338.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. COOK
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

- cc: M. Campagnone, HS-1.1
D. Govan, HS-1.1
R. Lewis, NA-10.2
D. Brunell, NA-12
W. Goodrum, NA-12
J. McConnell, NA-17
W. White, NA-171
S. Erhart, PXSO

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