



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 20, 2012

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Office of Environmental Management (EM) received your August 8, 2012, 90-day reporting requirement relating to the results of your review of the design of the slurry transport system in the Pretreatment Facility of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant at the Hanford Site. Your letter noted concerns involving the analysis performed to address the potential for plugging of process lines and engineering design considerations for the centrifugal slurry pump operations, as well as concern with the lack of early integration of safety into the design of these slurry transport systems. On November 6, 2012, I provided a letter that stated we would need an additional 45 days to complete our response.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of River Protection (ORP) and EM reviewed the contractor's submission developed to address the concerns raised in the Board's letter. The contractor's submittal did not meet DOE's expectations for an acceptable response and will not be provided at this time. ORP is providing more detailed written direction to the contractor on areas that need to be strengthened to address the Board's concerns and the need to ensure the proposed actions are fully integrated with the efforts of the teams established to respond to the Secretary of Energy's review.

DOE will provide the Board with a response after the teams established to address the Secretary of Energy's review issues develop specific recommendations and will brief the Board on our progress at our monthly Board briefing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Matthew Moury, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Programs, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor
for Environmental Management

