

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



March 28, 2014

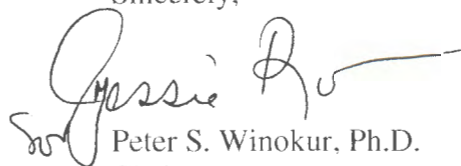
The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has been closely monitoring actions being taken by both the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractor in the aftermath of the truck fire and radioactive material release events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Based on its observations, the Board concludes that emergency preparedness and response at WIPP requires near-term improvements to ensure public and worker protection.

DOE and WIPP contractor emergency preparedness and response capability are of paramount importance as personnel reenter and investigate the February 14, 2014, radioactive material release. Therefore, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), the Board requests a briefing within 7 days to (1) identify emergency management resources needed to augment WIPP response capabilities, and (2) identify specific preconditions and contingency plans being implemented to ensure protection of the public and workers in case of another radiological release event during reentry activities.

Sincerely,



Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone
Mr. Jose R. Franco