



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60
Richland, Washington 99352

09-WTP-052

APR 07 2009

Mr. Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director
Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board
625 Indiana Ave., N. W. Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Dwyer:

THE 2008 SUMMARY STRUCTURAL REPORTS (SSRs) FOR THE HIGH LEVEL WASTE (HLW) AND PRETREATMENT (PT) FACILITIES.

The Defense Nuclear Safety Board (DNFSB) prepared its first report to Congress in February 2007 identifying issues with projects in design and construction. Included in the report, the DNFSB identified an issue with the structural design of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Project (WTP) HLW and PT. The Department has completed all the structural analyses. The only remaining item precluding closing this issue is submittal of the SSRs, which incorporate the Board's technical comments.

In April and May of 2008 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of River Protection (ORP) and the contractor Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) provided DNFSB staff with final review copies of the High Level Waste and Pretreatment facility SSRs, respectively. The project has advanced the SSRs for these two WTP Performance Category 3 facilities to adequately define the structural "load paths and seismic response" of the facilities in accordance with DNFSB's recommendations. The updated SSRs were provided to DNFSB staff on a file transfer protocol in accordance with the mutual arrangements.

During the past year, conversations with staff members indicated that only a few editorial changes were necessary, and no salient technical issues remain. By this letter, DOE is formally transmitting the two SSRs to the DNFSB. This will allow other parties across the DOE complex to have access to them as they prepare SSRs for their projects. It should be recognized that BNI is obligated to update these reports once the designs have been completed. At that time, BNI will incorporate any remaining comments from the staff. DOE believes that submitting these documents serves as a basis for closure of this issue in the Board's report to Congress.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or you may contact Gary E. Brunson, Director, WTP Engineering Division, (509) 376-2477.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Eschenberg".

John R. Eschenberg, Assistant Manager
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

WTP:RMV

Attachment: See page 2

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Mr. T. J. Dwyer
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Attachment:

Hard Copies & DVDs of:

Summary Structural Report for HLW Vitrification Building
(24590-WTP-RPT-ST-03-0001, Rev): Volumes - I, IIA, IIB

Summary Structural Report for PT Building
(24590-WTP-RPT-ST-04-0001, Rev): Volumes - I, IIA, IIB

cc w/o attach:

W. M. Linzau, DNFSB

R. G. Quirk, DNFSB