

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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June 10, 2010

The Honorable Thomas P. D'Agostino
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
U. S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0701

Dear Mr. D'Agostino:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) would like to thank you for your testimony on safety oversight of the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) defense nuclear facilities at our public meeting and hearing on May 12, 2010. The Board notes your strong commitment to oversight of high-hazard nuclear operations based upon a strong set of directives, independent transactional oversight, and the strengthening of contractor assurance systems.

Within your testimony, you noted that safety and mission are inseparable: "In the end, mission shouldn't be separated from safety. Safety and mission are the exact same thing." The Board agrees that safety is an enabler to NNSA's national security mission. Senior leadership should continue to reinforce this message, and the Board supports your further efforts along these lines.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone