



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 22, 2010

The Honorable John E. Mansfield
Vice Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
624 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your January 6, 2010, letter requested a report that addresses the safety issues associated with inadequate pulse jet mixing planned for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant being constructed on the Hanford site. This report is due within 60 days of receipt of your letter.

During our meeting on January 21, 2010, we explained that work is underway to address the concerns raised in the letter; however, this work will not be completed until April 2010. Therefore, the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Environmental Management (EM) will need additional time to prepare the report. In the meantime, we will schedule a briefing in early March to update you regarding our approach to resolving this issue. EM Headquarters and the Office of River Protection will continue dialog with your staff during development of the report. DOE, therefore, requests an additional 60 days to respond to your request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709 or Dr. Steven L. Krahn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Inés R. Triay".

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

