



The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

September 17, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 21, 2010, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) provided a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concerning a Deposition Velocity. The letter requested that DOE provide a response due within 120 days setting forth a technically defensible basis for (a) the final deposition velocity to be used in accident calculations for the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant and (b) complex-wide use of a default value (or values) to be specified in DOE's *MACCS2 Computer Code Application Guidance for Documented Safety Analysis*.

The purpose of this letter is to request a 45-day extension for responding to your May 21st letter. The Department has been diligently working to respond to the original request and has made significant progress. However, to assure we have adequately and completely addressed all of the Board's concerns, DOE is currently performing an analysis that includes consideration of your August 26, 2010, evaluation. Subsequent discussions with Board staff have occurred seeking appropriate resolution. This detailed analytic process will take some additional time. However, it will allow us to be fully responsive to your request. In the meantime, the Department will continue dialogue with the Board and Board staff to keep you apprised of the status of the response.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Glenn Podonsky at (301) 903-3777.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Poneman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel B. Poneman

