



The Deputy Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 9, 2011

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

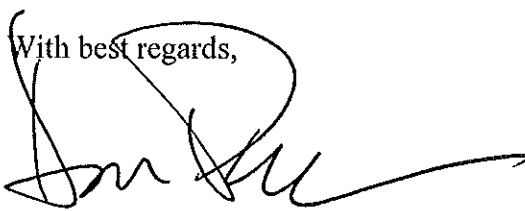
Dear Chairman Winokur:

I want to convey the Department of Energy's appreciation to you, the members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), and DNFSB staff for its signal contributions to the process of reviewing the Department's safety directives that have been examined as part of our reform initiative.

We recognize that you have developed special processes to review proposed revisions to these important directives. Throughout our review, DNFSB feedback contributed in valuable ways to shaping the approach and content of many of our safety directives. In particular, the Department would like to recognize Matt Forsbacka and Chris Roscetti for their efforts in coordinating Board staff feedback.

We are now finalizing updates to the Department's facility safety directive and its related guides and technical standards, and remain committed to working with you and your staff throughout that process.

While our staffs have not always agreed on every comment or suggestion, I understand that they have addressed the issues seriously and analytically on the merits, in a responsible and professional manner. I am proud that our organizations have worked together effectively, over a sustained period, and draw confidence from the knowledge that they share the common goal of improving the Department's safety directives.

With best regards,

Daniel B. Poneman

