



The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 25, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On January 25, 2011, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) requested a report and briefing explaining "(1) the anticipated improvements to public and worker safety resulting from the 'expedited' review process, and (2) the resolution of the staff's comments on DOE Orders 226.1B and 450.2." This letter provides the requested report on these two issues.

As you are aware, the Department of Energy is reviewing its safety and security directives to assure these requirements provide effective and efficient protection for workers, national security assets, the public, and the environment. The review effort is guided by the Department's *Project Management Plan, DOE 2010 Safety and Security Reform Plan* (Plan), which we issued in June, 2010.

The seven directives addressed in my December 29, 2010, memorandum address important Departmental processes for environment, safety, and health. The schedule was set after consulting with Departmental elements that prioritized their activities to support the review process, which is consistent with the need to make decisions expeditiously to realize the important benefits of the reform efforts. The anticipated improvements to worker and public safety will be updated, re-examined directives that more effectively protect public health and safety.

We used the process outlined in the Plan to develop the current draft Order 226.1, *Implementation of DOE Oversight Policy*, and Order 450.2, *Integrated Safety Management System*. The Department received Board staff comments on informal drafts of these two directives before receipt of your letter. The Department's resolutions to these comments were provided back to the Board staff, along with revised draft directives via e-mail, to facilitate further review and discussion.

As outlined in the Plan, subsequent versions of Orders 226.1B and 450.2 were released for formal DOE-wide and Board staff review on January 14 and 28, 2011, respectively. The Board staff provided comments on the subsequent version of Order 226.1B on February 4, 2011, and Order 450.2 on February 18, 2011. The Department is evaluating these comments and plans to respond and to interact with Board staff to reach comment resolution by March 4 and March 18, 2011, respectively on these two orders.



Representatives from the Office of Health, Safety and Security met with the Board on January 28 and February 14, 2011, to discuss these directives, comments received, and the review process. These representatives can provide further briefings about the Department's planned resolution of additional comments received from the Board staff subsequent to the most recent meeting.

Thank you for expressing the Board's concerns. We are committed to continuing our close working relationship with the Board to improve the safety of the Department's operations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel B. Poneman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Daniel B. Poneman