



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 30, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a letter dated, July 25, 2011, the Department of Energy (DOE) informed you that the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) for the Tank Farms at Hanford would be revised to include designation of the Double Shell Tank (DST) primary ventilation systems as safety significant by the end of September 2011. DOE approval of the DSA revision is now projected by the end of November 2011.

A draft of the proposed safety basis amendment was received from the Tank Operations Contactor (TOC) for review in late July 2011. The proposed amendment was reviewed by DOE nuclear safety staff from the Office of River Protection (ORP). Additional review and assistance was provided by the Office of Safety and Emergency Management Evaluations, Office of Health, Safety and Security. The broad scope of the amendment resulted in numerous comments and questions. While most of these general review comments and questions have been resolved, one last issue remains regarding material procurement requirements for the current ventilation systems. ORP is working with the TOC to resolve this remaining issue, but that resolution is expected to extend beyond the end of September 2011. The additional 60 days should provide sufficient time to complete and approve the safety evaluation report.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. James Hutton, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "David Huizenga". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

David Huizenga
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environmental Management

cc: R. Lagdon, S-5
T. Mustin, EM-2
J. Hutton, EM-20 (Acting)
K. Picha, EM-21 (Acting)

