

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



January 19, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has received your letter dated November 10, 2011, enclosing the Department of Energy's Implementation Plan for the Board's Recommendation 2010-2, *Pulse Jet Mixing at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*. The Board has reviewed the implementation plan and finds that it meets the substantive criteria of the Board's Policy Statement 1 and is responsive to the issues documented in the Recommendation.

The Board has followed closely the work conducted subsequent to the finalization of the Implementation Plan and the date of this letter and is aware that some test results question the assumption that Newtonian techniques are appropriate to assess non-Newtonian vessel performance. This was an important assumption underpinning the Implementation Plan. Consequently, revision of the existing plan may be required and, if necessary, should be provided to the Board prior to the May 2012 quarterly update.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mr. David Huizenga
Mr. Scott L. Samuelson
Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone