



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 30, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a letter dated January 19, 2012, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) indicated that the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan (IP) for Board Recommendation 2010-2, *Pulse Jet Mixing at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*, was responsive to the issues documented in the Recommendation. The letter also stated that the Board was aware that some test results questioned the assumption that Newtonian techniques are appropriate to assess non-Newtonian vessel performance and that a revision of the existing plan may be required.

IP Commitment 5.3.3.1, *Update Assessment of use of Newtonian Analysis Techniques to Assess Non-Newtonian Vessel Performance*, currently scheduled for delivery by August 31, 2012, is expected to be completed ahead of schedule. It will confirm that Newtonian techniques are not appropriate to assess non-Newtonian vessel performance. During our next Recommendation 2010-2 IP quarterly briefing, we will discuss the details associated with this conclusion and how it will impact downstream activities in the IP. We will also be prepared to discuss our path forward to revise the IP to reflect these changes by the fourth quarter of this calendar year. We will continue to maintain open dialogue with the Board and its staff as DOE proceeds with revising the IP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Matthew Moury, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Programs, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga  
Senior Advisor  
for Environmental Management

cc: M. Campagnone, HS-1.1  
D. Knutson, ORP  
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