



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 27, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to the April 3, 2012, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) letter requesting a report and a briefing on the approach to be used to resolve issues with the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) project's application of the FLUENT computational model.

While a briefing can be provided to the Board at this time, we believe a better and more informative course of action would be to await the resolution of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) issues identified in Board Recommendation 2010-2, *Pulse Jet Mixing at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*, Implementation Plan (IP) Commitment 5.3.3.5. DOE committed to provide the Board resolved NETL comments within IP Commitment 5.3.3.6. DOE will use information from the NETL review with consideration of the Board's letter to support a conclusion regarding the verification and validation of the WTP project's FLUENT model. This effort will be addressed in IP Commitment 5.3.3.6, which will also fulfill the Board's reporting requirement. A briefing to the Board is most appropriately scheduled when the deliverable associated with IP Commitment 5.3.3.6 is completed.

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 blue ink that reads "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor
for Environmental Management

cc: S. Samuelson, ORP
G. Brunson, ORP
M. Campagnone, HS-1.1
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