



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 6, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Office of Environmental Management (EM) received your August 8, 2012, letter relating to the results of your review of the design of the slurry transport system in the Pretreatment Facility of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant at the Hanford Site. Your letter noted concerns involving the analysis performed to address the potential for plugging of process lines and the engineering design considerations for the centrifugal slurry pump operations, as well as concern with the lack of early integration of safety into the design of these slurry transport systems.

Bechtel National, Incorporated developed the technical basis and as such EM needs additional time to work with them to ensure that the Department of Energy's response is consistent with our approach to ensuring nuclear safety. In addition, we are taking into consideration the perspective that we have gained supporting the recent Secretarial Black Cell review initiative. Accordingly, we will require an additional 45 days to complete our response.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "David Huizenga".

David Huizenga
Senior Advisor
for Environmental Management

