

The Deputy Secretary of Energy Washington, DC 20585 September 3, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your July 17 letter requesting a schedule for completion of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility (PF-4) Alternate Seismic Analysis.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has completed two major analysis efforts, a *dynamic linear analysis* and a *static nonlinear pushover analysis*. In my September 28, 2012, letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), I committed NNSA to conducting a *modal loading analysis*, the alternate analysis, of the PF-4 facility to augment the previous analyses. NNSA believes this alternate analysis will be helpful in understanding further the seismic integrity of the PF-4 facility and providing assurance that all of its structural elements that require updating are identified.

NNSA has consulted with the DNFSB throughout this process to ensure that the assumptions and methodologies underpinning the modal loading analysis are appropriate and well documented. The PF-4 Alternate Seismic Analysis is scheduled to be completed December 16, 2013. The schedule, which outlines the path to completion, is being provided as an enclosure to this letter.

NNSA recognizes that there may be some challenges to maintaining the schedule due to the developmental nature of the work and the potential need to implement changes due to the independent review process. If the schedule changes for any reason, NNSA will promptly communicate that to the DNFSB.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. James J. McConnell at (202) 586-8246.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel B. Poneman

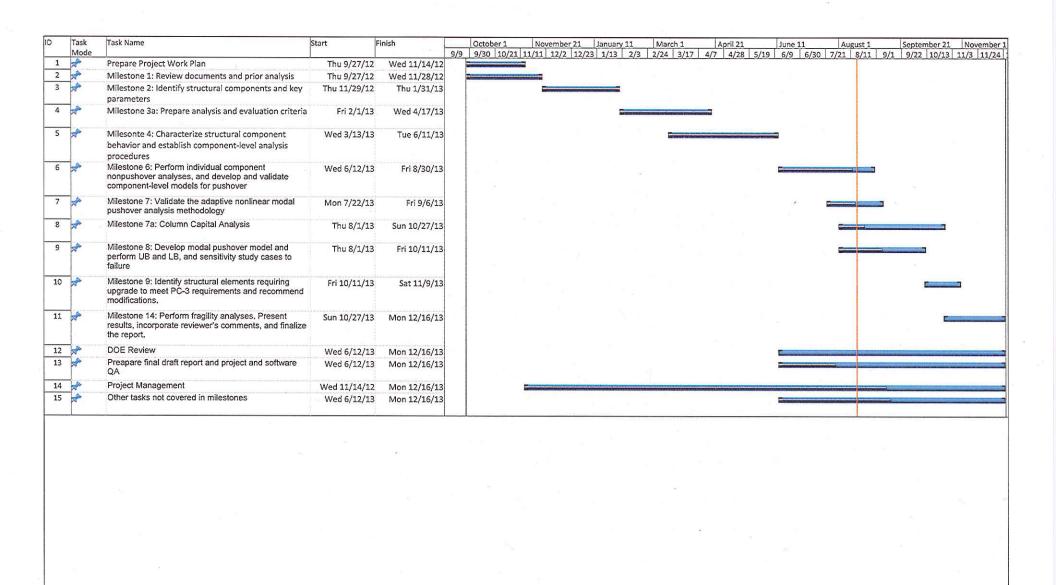
Enclosure

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