

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman  
Sean Sullivan

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901




December 17, 2014

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is not expeditiously executing the alternate seismic analysis of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Plutonium Facility (PF-4), as committed by the Deputy Secretary of Energy. Since 2009, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has engaged NNSA regarding the seismic vulnerability of PF-4. In the event of a facility collapse, the off-site radiological dose to the public would be unacceptable. The Board contends that NNSA's current analysis does not adequately predict the likelihood of the seismic collapse scenario. Based on these concerns, the Deputy Secretary of Energy committed in a letter dated September 28, 2012, to perform an alternate analysis to ensure that NNSA's analytical methods are valid and the results are technically correct. The portion of the alternate analysis that would evaluate the probabilistic aspects of facility performance is currently not progressing. The completed analysis is essential for NNSA to make sound technical determinations regarding the necessity for any additional structural modifications to PF-4 or compensatory measures that may be needed in order to protect the public.

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C § 2286b(d), the Board requests a report within 30 days of receipt of this letter providing an updated plan and schedule for completing the alternate analysis described in the Deputy Secretary's letter.

Sincerely,  


Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz