



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



September 5, 2014

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, SW
Suite # 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

My letter of December 6, 2013, regarding the pause in programmatic operations at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Plutonium Facility (PF-4) indicated that the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) would provide status reports as well as a written report on our progress as of June 1, 2014. We have provided you and your staff briefings and updates throughout this period. We have also briefed the Administrator regularly on the status of the criticality safety and conduct of operations issues at the PF-4 as well as plans for readiness reviews and resumption. Attached is a list that provides the current plans for resumption of the remaining PF-4 processes.

All PF-4 processes not yet resumed require a readiness assessment as specified in DOE O 425.1D, *Verification of Readiness to Start Up or Restart Nuclear Facilities*. NNSA and LANL are currently developing the scope and schedule for these readiness assessments.

We will continue to focus on improvement in the operations that have already been resumed through the Laboratory Director's process. Senior LANL managers, in conjunction with federal oversight, will be present to monitor and support continuous improvement in resumed operations to achieve a high standard of safety through robust conduct of operations practices including implementing concise and direct criticality safety requirements.

The plutonium facilities at LANL are being upgraded to support the long-term plutonium mission. Criticality safety and conduct of operations at PF-4 are also being upgraded to ensure safe, sustained, long-term nuclear operations. Our oversight activities, readiness preparations, and review processes for all the PF-4 resumption activities will be consistent with this objective

Sincerely,

James J. McConnell
Acting Associate Administrator
for Infrastructure and Operations



Enclosure

cc: D. Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy
F. Klotz, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, NNSA
K. Lebak, Manager, Los Alamos Site Office
J. Olencz, AU-1.1
C. McMillian, Director, LANL

PF-4 Resumption Status (8/4)

Resumed (With Comp Measures)	Contractor Readiness Assessment	Federal Readiness Assessment
Pu-238 Operations	Welding	Pyrochemistry
High Energy Radiography	Assembly	Aqueous Chloride
Full Scale Test Facility	Inspection	Aqueous Nitrate
Actinide Chem./ Material Characterization	Part and Low Energy Radiography	Cementation
Dynamic Testing		Casting
Repackaging, Consolidation, and Discard		Milling and Blending
3013 Packaging		Welding (PIGMA)
Materials Identification and Surveillance		Isotope Fuel Impact Tester
Oxide Characterization		Hot Isotopic Press
Non-Destructive Assay		Electrolytic Decon of Uranium
Waste/Shipping/Receiving		Machining
Material Storage and Staging		Furnace Operations
Drop Boxes		
Material Transfer Carts		