

Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman

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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



April 7, 2015

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

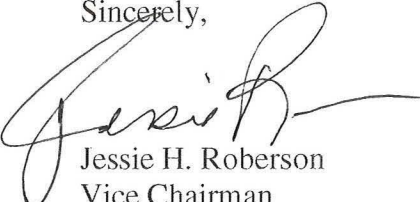
Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has undertaken a new initiative to communicate annually our assessment of the progress on each open Recommendation, and to further inform you of the remaining actions we believe to be the most significant as you strive to meet the intent of the Recommendation. This communication addresses Board Recommendation 2011-1, *Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*.

Since the Board's Recommendation was issued, the Department of Energy (DOE) has taken numerous actions to assess and improve the nuclear safety culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) and across the DOE defense nuclear complex, as you personally explained last October in testimony at our public hearing. We agree that progress has been made and that only two commitments from the DOE Implementation Plan (IP) remain open. One commitment deals with the review of the Bechtel National, Inc., contract for the WTP project to "implement appropriate mechanisms to achieve balanced priorities and include safety culture elements." The second commitment deals with the final approval of the site-specific safety culture sustainment plans by the Program Secretarial Officers. We look forward to the expeditious development of sustainment plans.

We plan to conduct a public hearing and meeting in Kennewick, Washington, in the summer of 2015 to gather additional information and further assess DOE's progress in addressing the issues outlined in Recommendation 2011-1.

Sincerely,



Jessie H. Roberson  
Vice Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz