



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Joyce L. Connery
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Madam Chair:

This letter and its attachment provide the information requested in your November 10, 2015, letter seeking the Department of Energy's (DOE's) anticipated scope and schedule for Building 235-F Risk Reduction Activities for fiscal year (FY) 2016 and 2017. As communicated to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) in the *Implementation Plan Schedule Changes for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2012-1* dated November 2014, DOE experienced delays completing early Implementation Plan (IP) activities due to a combination of setbacks caused by budget constraints in 2013 and early 2014. Those delays combined with projections for reduced out-year budgets, resulted in an estimated 29-month delay in being able to complete the planned scope identified in the original IP. Consequently, DOE needed to redistribute its funding among its many risk priorities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). Hence planned funding for Building 235-F risk reduction was also reduced, but maintained at a sustainable level. The attached schedule reflects these funding reductions, but with sustained execution of risk reduction efforts, including retention of the trained and experienced deactivation crew needed to achieve work safely and efficiently.

Your request mentions that a considerable time gap exists in the IP between the start of work on cells 6-9 in 2015 and the subsequent work on cells 1-5 in 2018. Physical work on cells 3-5 is currently scheduled to begin in June 2017 with the prerequisite restoration of cell infrastructure. The schedule also contains four months of activities in FY 2017 for conducting Readiness Assessments (RAs) for cells 3-5 prior to beginning infrastructure restoration. These four months represent an opportunity to improve upon the proposed schedule. For example, if deactivation work in cells 6-9 has been conducted safely, is similar to the work to be done in cells 3-5, and poses hazards similar to those in cells 3-5, it may be possible that these RAs would not need to be performed. The Department's goal is to maximize funding, efficiencies, alternative work approaches, and human resources to advance the scheduled work.

We appreciate your recognition of the progress we have achieved thus far, as these incremental achievements lead to improving the safety posture of this facility. As DOE continues to balance risk mitigation and associated funding across SRS, be assured risk reduction in Building 235-F will remain among the top priorities. More information on our progress and planning for moving forward with these activities is reported in the 2015 Annual Report.



If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. James Hutton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Programs, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica C. Regalbuto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'R'.

Monica C. Regalbuto
Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

Enclosure

235-F Schedule FY2016-FY2017

	FY16												FY17														
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Restore cell infrastructure cells 6-9 (Examples could include removing windows, installing gloves, restoring lighting or replacing manipulators, if needed) IP Action 1-3	Yellow	Yellow*	Yellow	Green	Green	Green																					
Annual Updates to DNFSB						Green♦												Green♦									
Update Planning for next 12 months IP Actions 1-10 and 1-12 (Likely will be combined with the annual reports)							Yellow*												Yellow*								
Enhanced characterization (Measurement to better locate and quantify the residual Pu-238 to aid in planning and execution of deactivation)	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow																				
Electrical/mechanical isolation cells 6-9 (Supports the control of hazardous energy within the cells)	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green																		
Waste Removal/Decon 6-9 (Methods could include vacuuming,strippable coatings, tools to remove equipment)						Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green													
Recharacterize Cells 6-9 (Determine effectiveness of removal/decon activities)															Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow									
Eng. Design cells 3-5		Yellow	Yellow																Yellow								
Update waste handling program. Revise procedures to support cells 3-5 (Apply lessons learned from cells 6-9)															Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green									
Perform Readiness Assessments for cells 3-5: Contractor and DOE (If Required)																			Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green					
Restore cell infrastructure cells 3-5																								Green	Green	Green	Green
Electrical/Mechanical isolation cells 3-5																				Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

Schedule Date: 11/30/2015

- Planning activities
- Field work
- Annual Report Due Date
- Updated Expected Deliverable D: