



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 3, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Connery:

This letter is in response to your September 2, 2016, letter to Secretary Moniz requesting the results of the Department of Energy's (DOE) evaluation of the effectiveness of DOE Federal nuclear safety oversight processes. As stated in your letter, DOE planned to perform a holistic evaluation of the effectiveness of the Federal nuclear safety oversight processes in 2015. The Department completed the enclosed evaluation in October 2015, which resulted in a number of pre-decisional recommendations to improve the effectiveness of DOE Federal nuclear safety oversight.

Concurrent with DOE's completion of this holistic evaluation, the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories (CRENEL) issued its final report entitled, *Securing America's Future: Realizing the Potential of the Department of Energy's National Laboratories*, in October 2015. The Department's response to the CRENEL report was issued in the DOE February 2016 Report to Congress entitled, *Departmental Response to the Final Report of the Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories*. In this response, the Department discussed efforts to improve oversight processes, to include clarifying the oversight roles of DOE Headquarters and Field Office personnel, and placing emphasis on new rigorous and dependable Contractor Assurance Systems (CAS), which serve as a system for the contractor to manage performance consistent with contract requirements. Thus, the recommendations from the 2015 DOE holistic evaluation are being considered as the Department addresses the actions pertaining to the CRENEL report.

Since the issuance of the February 2016 Report to Congress, DOE and our contractors have focused significant effort to improve oversight, culminating in a CAS Summit held on August 23, 2016, with participation of senior leadership from DOE Headquarters and Field Elements, Laboratories, and our industry partners. Specific recommendations from this Summit are being developed for DOE senior management approval.



If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-5175.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB Moury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "B".

Matthew Moury
Associate Under Secretary for
Environment, Health, Safety and Security

Enclosure

The enclosure is an OUO file.

Please contact us at (301) 903-8019 for a copy of the enclosure.