



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 3, 2016

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

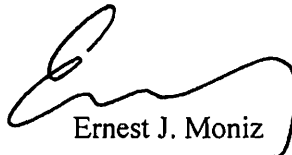
Dear Madam Chairman:

Earlier this year, the Department of Energy (DOE) responded to Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Recommendation 2015-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Pantex Plant*, which identified the need for DOE to address specific deficiencies with, and strengthen regulatory compliance of, the emergency preparedness and response capability at the Pantex Plant.

DOE is working with your staff to define actions it will take to address the Recommendation, including the three sub-recommendations. A draft implementation plan (IP) has been developed and shared with your staff. DOE is continuing to clarify the IP and its deliverables. We will also ensure there is a clear method for demonstrating closure of IP actions in a manner that can be easily verified.

In accordance with 42 U. S. C. § 2286d(f), DOE needs an extension of 45 days to complete the IP, and is therefore notifying you as required. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Geoffrey L. Beausoleil at (865) 576-0752.

Sincerely,



Ernest J. Moniz

