



**Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
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March 13, 2017 -

The Honorable Sean Sullivan
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Sullivan:

Enclosed are the deliverables for the third quarter milestones from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan (IP) responding to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2015-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Pantex Plant*. In addition, Enclosure 1 is the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Production Office Review Report. The third quarter deliverables reflect important enhancements to the Pantex Plant (Pantex) response capabilities to include additional features to the Emergency Management Information System (EMInS) which allows for automated communication with local officials and DOE Headquarters; development of requirements and training of certain responders in order to improve communication with the Pantex Emergency Response Organization; and establishment of an off-site radiological monitoring capability which can be implemented in close coordination with state and local governments to supplement off-site resources. Another goal this quarter was to assess progress and effectiveness of improvements as a result of the IP. To this end, Pantex requested a review by the DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments (EA) of its Emergency Management Program and of the full-scale exercise conducted on February 22, 2017. EA completed its programmatic review which is included in this submittal. The EA exercise summary report will be included as part of the fourth quarter IP status report. The NNSA has also conducted assessments which are included in this report.

The internal and external assessments, as well as the preliminary results of the recent full-scale exercise, demonstrate improvement. The overall assessment is that Pantex can adequately respond to an emergency. This was demonstrated in support of an off-site wildland fire on March 6, 2017, which received national attention. However, elements of the program still need enhancement and time to mature. We recognize a key attribute to our success is to continue to be constructively critical of our program in order to further improve.

We look forward to continued positive interactions with you and your staff. If you have any questions, please contact me at (865) 576-0752.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey L. Beausoleil
Manager

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Enclosures:

1. Pantex DNFSB Recommendation 2015-1, Implementation Plan Milestone Deliverable Review, NPO Validation and Verification, Quarter Three Deliverables
2. Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Implementation Plan Milestones, Third Quarter

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