

Thomas A. Summers, Acting Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



December 8, 2020

The Honorable Dan Brouillette
Secretary of Energy
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Brouillette:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has reviewed the draft safety basis for the Hazard Category 3 upgrade to the Radiological Laboratory Utility Office Building at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), also referred to as the Plutonium Facility, Building 400. Given the low proposed radiological inventory for the facility, the Board did not identify any safety issues related to the control strategy for radiological hazards that pose a significant risk to public health and safety.

The Board's staff shared observations with LANL, including: (1) the need to identify appropriate current codes and standards for the facility to address any gaps between the facility construction and current safety requirements, and (2) the need to expeditiously address LANL-identified deficiencies with the facility fire protection system that is relied upon for life safety. The Board and its staff will continue tracking LANL's progress in addressing these observations as it undertakes readiness activities to support Hazard Category 3 operations.

Yours truly,

Thomas A. Summers

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Acting Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz