

Joyce L. Connery, Chair  
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



February 11, 2021

The Honorable David G. Huizenga  
Acting Secretary of Energy  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Acting Secretary Huizenga:

This letter revises the FY20 reporting requirement included in the Board letter dated February 26, 2016, regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear criticality safety program. The annual reporting requirement includes a report on criticality safety performance metrics and a briefing to the Board. For FY20, the Board has decided that a briefing covering the status of DOE nuclear criticality safety programs is sufficient. The briefing should include how DOE and its National Nuclear Security Administration headquarters systemically evaluate criticality safety programs across the complex and how it is addressing known criticality safety challenges at specific sites.

The Board believes continued DOE focus on criticality safety is warranted and is considering options to improve this reporting requirement. These changes, when made, will be communicated to DOE by the Board. In the interim, pursuant to 42 United States Code § 2286b(d), the Board requests a briefing on the status of DOE criticality safety programs to satisfy the FY20 reporting requirement within 120 days.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Connery  
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz