

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice-Chair
Jessie H. Roberson

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



November 10, 2021

The Honorable Jill Hruby
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Administrator Hruby:

On August 6, 2020, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) sent a letter to the Secretary of Energy identifying concerns with the identification and control of safety basis and quality assurance requirements for Pantex Plant construction projects. On December 16, 2020, the Acting Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration responded to the Board letter agreeing with the Board's safety findings and identifying a series of corrective actions.

The Board finds the corrective actions and the associated deliverables to be comprehensive and resolve the identified safety deficiencies. The safety improvements made will help protect against mis-identification of safety basis requirements, quality requirements, and system boundaries on future construction projects. Therefore, the Board considers the safety issue closed. The Board will continue to follow the progress of infrastructure improvements at the Pantex Plant and implementation of lessons learned associated with incorporation of safety and quality requirements in project planning.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Ms. Teresa Robbins
Mr. Joe Olencz