

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

Washington, DC 20004-2901



October 14, 2021

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Granholm:

Thank you for your letter of September 8, 2021, providing the Department of Energy's (DOE) final decision on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) Recommendation 2020-1, *Nuclear Safety Requirements*. The Board acknowledges DOE's acceptance of the recommendation, though it notes that some DOE responses do not fully embrace actions recommended by the Board. The Board shares DOE's view regarding the benefits of constructive staff-level interactions and looks forward to working with DOE and its staff to close any gaps in developing an implementation plan that addresses the Board's sub-recommendations.

Updating DOE's nuclear safety regulatory framework will be a challenging undertaking, but one the Board believes will, as you wrote, "ensure the continued safe, effective, and efficient execution of DOE's mission." The Board believes periodic update briefings from DOE during development of the implementation plan would be mutually beneficial to ensure progress towards the shared goal of improving DOE's regulatory framework as outlined in the Board's recommendation.

The Board looks forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this and other nuclear safety items. Our point of contact for scheduling is Tara Tadlock, Associate Director for Board Operations, who can be reached at 202-694-7176.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Connery  
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz