



## The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 19, 2021

The Honorable Thomas A. Summers  
Acting Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Summers:

The Department of Energy (DOE) received the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB/Board) technical report DNFSB/TECH-46, *Potential Energetic Chemical Reactions Events Involving Transuranic Waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory*, on September 24, 2020. The report states that the safety bases for both the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Office of Environmental Management (EM) facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory do not consistently or appropriately consider a potential energetic chemical reaction involving transuranic waste. DOE has been working to address the Board's concerns since receipt of the letter but has not yet completed its evaluation of the issues and requests a 60-day extension to provide a response by March 19, 2021.

The extension request is based on the complexity of the issues involved, and the desire to ensure that an integrated, complete, and accurate response is provided. The complexity is further amplified by the number of involved stakeholders and contractors, who are located in multiple program office locations. This extension will also allow DOE to accurately reflect the extent of condition reviews have continued, and document contractors' actions that have been entered into the contractors' Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) process.

An extension will furthermore allow DOE to continue progressing toward revising and issuing DOE-STD-5506, *Preparation of Safety Basis Documents for Transuranic (TRU) Waste Facilities*. DOE continues to meet and discuss DNFSB comments with DNFSB staff as part of the draft DOE-STD-5506 revision effort and keep DNFSB staff informed of the revision progress and pending changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. James J. McConnell, Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations (NNSA), at (202) 586-4379 or Ms. Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations (EM), at (202) 586-1486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Brouillette".

Dan Brouillette