

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

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



October 20, 2022

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

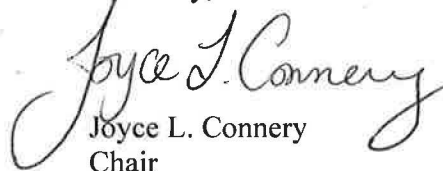
Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is charged with providing independent advice, analysis, and recommendations on nuclear safety oversight at defense nuclear facilities. To fulfill its responsibilities, the Board exercises its authority to request timely reports and briefings from the Department of Energy (DOE). The Memorandum of Understanding between the DOE and the Board contains a provision that the Secretary of Energy will inform the Board in writing if additional time is necessary to meet a reporting requirement imposed by the Board. The Memorandum of Understanding further stipulates that the Board will inform the Secretary in writing if additional time will affect the Board's safety oversight. DOE has not consistently provided the requested reports by the Board's due date or given written notice that additional time is necessary to meet reporting requirements prior to the due dates. Accordingly, the Board is writing to inform you that DOE's delayed response to the following open reporting requirements is affecting the Board's safety oversight:

- Report on analysis performed by Los Alamos National Laboratory of Board Technical Report 44, *Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility Leak Path Factor Methodology*, due September 12, 2022 (from Board letter dated August 11, 2022).
- Written response on implementation of the unreviewed safety question process following a probabilistic seismic hazard analysis update, originally due August 1, 2022, extended by 45 days by DOE letter dated August 20, 2022 (from Board letter dated June 16, 2022).
- Report and briefing on the nuclear criticality safety program at the Nevada National Security Site's National Criticality Experiments Research Center, due September 15, 2022 (from Board letter dated June 16, 2022).
- Report on Pantex Dosimetry, due October 10, 2022 (from Board letter dated May 10, 2022, and subsequent NNSA letter July 28, 2022)

The Board requires the requested information to determine whether further Board action is needed to fulfill its safety oversight mission.

Sincerely,


Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz