

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



June 3, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer 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) visited the Pantex Plant during the week of April 15, 2024, and greatly appreciates the support provided by the Pantex Field Office (PFO) and the site management and operating contractor, Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS). During the visit, both PFO and CNS management briefed the Board on the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) implementation of commitments made in response to Board Recommendation 2019-1, *Uncontrolled Hazard Scenarios and 10 CFR 830 Implementation at the Pantex Plant*. Based on those discussions, the Board does not require this year's annual status briefing on progress the Department of Energy (DOE) made during the past year toward resolving issues identified in Recommendation 2019-1.

The Board has been closely monitoring improvement initiatives that resulted from NNSA's Recommendation 2019-1 Implementation Plan. As described in the NNSA Administrator's June 15, 2023, letter, NNSA revised the implementation plan such that a deliverable associated with establishing performance criteria for special tooling provides a schedule for revising the remaining safety basis documents, to be managed outside of the implementation plan. During the recent onsite discussions, PFO and CNS indicated that completing these safety basis revisions, which include additional modifications resulting from the *Pantex Safety Basis Vision*, will take longer than indicated in the schedule NNSA provided to the Board. The Board requests that NNSA provide the revised schedule to the Board's staff when it becomes available.

Per NNSA's January 16, 2024, letter, PFO and CNS have completed all deliverables associated with the revised implementation plan. The implementation plan states that NNSA will begin an effectiveness review within six months of this milestone. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), the Board requests a briefing from NNSA on the results of the effectiveness review within 60 days of completion of the review.

The Board looks forward to continued collaboration as DOE progresses toward Recommendation 2019-1 closure.



Joyce L. Connery
Chair

- c: The Honorable Jill Hruby, NNSA Administrator
- Ms. Teresa Robbins, NNSA Y-12 Field Office Manager
- Mr. Jason Armstrong, NNSA Pantex Field Office Manager
- Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board