

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

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



June 4, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) appreciates your engagement and continued support of activities centered on improving the Department of Energy's (DOE) management of aging infrastructure. While DOE has made progress in this area, the Board believes additional attention is required to strengthen elements of DOE's regulatory framework addressing the safety impact of age-related degradation on defense nuclear facilities and supporting infrastructure.

To advance our shared goal of improving aging infrastructure management across the DOE complex, the Board is planning several upcoming activities as part of a sustained focus on this vital issue. The Board will hold a public hearing with sessions designed to benchmark aging management best practices used by other relevant organizations engaged in high-hazard work. Public hearing sessions are tentatively scheduled to occur at the Board's headquarters on August 8 and 14, 2024.

Following the public hearing sessions, the Board intends to sponsor a workshop for senior staff from our respective agencies to examine opportunities to improve current protocols and incorporate best practices. The Board plans to host this workshop at our headquarters on September 10, 2024, and we request your continued support in promoting DOE engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce L. Connery".

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board