



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 3, 2024

The Honorable Joyce L. Connery
Chair
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chair Connery:

The Department of Energy (DOE) received the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board or DNFSB) letter and its enclosed report, dated May 15, 2024. The letter provides the results of your staff's review of the final design of the continuous air monitor (CAM) system for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System and requests a written response and briefing within 60 days of receipt of the letter addressing the Board's safety concerns over whether the CAM system can reliably perform its safety functions in the expected operating environment. DOE is currently reviewing the letter and its enclosure and will need an additional 60 days to provide the requested written response and briefing to the DNFSB. We expect to provide the briefing and written response by September 12, 2024.

The additional 60 days will afford DOE sufficient time to assess the letter and report to and coordinate documentation amidst ongoing work at WIPP. We will continue to provide Board staff with periodic updates to ensure that they are kept informed of our progress and their input is considered.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mark Bollinger, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office, at (575) 234-7303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Granholm", is positioned above the name Jennifer Granholm.

Jennifer Granholm