

Patricia L. Lee

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



December 30, 2025

The Honorable Timothy J. Walsh
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Assistant Secretary Walsh:

Thank you for your December 16, 2025, letter to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) requesting a 90-day extension to provide a response to the Board's October 16, 2025, letter regarding the transportable storage containers closure welding process at Hanford's Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility.

In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), the Board grants this request and looks forward to receiving your response by March 16, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia L. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized.

Dr. Patricia L. Lee
Board Member

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