

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".

Dr. Patricia L. Lee
Board Member

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