

Thomas A. Summers, Acting Chairman  
Patricia L. Lee

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**  
Washington, DC 20004-2901



October 17, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Wright:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) affirms its commitment to our shared mission of ensuring the safety of the Department of the Energy's (DOE) defense nuclear facilities, as mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. The Board values the cooperative relationship with DOE and appreciates your ongoing efforts to advance public and worker health and safety at these critical facilities.

As you are aware, Thomas A. Summers' second term as Vice Chairman and as Acting Chairman is set to conclude on October 18, 2025. Upon the expiration of his term, unless the President directs otherwise, he will depart the Board. The Acting Chairman will delegate certain authorities upon his departure from the Board. That delegation includes, among other things, the issuance of reporting requirements during loss of quorum.

Despite this transition, we assure you that the Board's dedicated staff will continue to execute the safety oversight mission as required by the Atomic Energy Act. The Board remains steadfast in its commitment to providing DOE independent analysis and advice to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, including the health and safety of employees and contractors at DOE's defense nuclear facilities. We are keenly aware that a significant nuclear safety issue could jeopardize the nuclear deterrent and DOE's critical national security mission.

The Board remains committed to fostering a collaborative partnership with the DOE to support the Department's vital mission. To that end, we respectfully emphasize the importance of DOE's continued adherence to its obligations under the Atomic Energy Act, including the timely response to open Board information requests, reporting requirements and recommendation deliverables. The enclosure includes a list of open Board reporting requirements and DOE implementation plan deliverables and their due dates.

To ensure transparency to congressional stakeholders, the Board is also required to biannually submit to Congress a report identifying any requests for information that have been denied by the Secretary, which may include delayed responses to reporting requirements and delayed DOE implementation plan deliverables. The next report is due on January 1, 2026.

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286c, we expect that the Department will maintain its commitment to fully cooperate with the Board and its staff and provide prompt and unfettered access to such facilities, personnel, and information as is necessary for the Board to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. This cooperation is essential to ensuring the safety and integrity of the nation's defense nuclear complex.

We look forward to continuing a productive engagement with the DOE as we advance our mutual safety goal of protecting public and worker safety.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Summers  
Acting Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board



Dr. Patricia L. Lee  
Board Member  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Enclosure

- c: The Honorable Brandon Williams, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security; Administrator,  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
The Honorable Timothy Walsh, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management  
Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board

## ENCLOSURE

### Open Board Reporting Requirements and DOE Implementation Plan Deliverables

| Source Document                                                        | Deliverable                                                                                                                          | Due Date                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.3.2      | Development and issuance of new nuclear safety order                                                                                 | Initial: December 27, 2024<br>Revised: March 31, 2025<br>(per DOE letter dated December 18, 2024) |
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.6.1      | Technical paper with concurrence from relevant program offices documenting the analysis of regulatory options                        | 1 year following the issuance of new DOE nuclear safety order                                     |
| Recommendation 2023-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Sub-recommendation 2.c | Extent of condition assessment report                                                                                                | April 7, 2025<br>Received on September 15,<br>Dated August 22, 2025                               |
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.2.3      | Development and issuance of revised DOE-STD-1027                                                                                     | June 8, 2025                                                                                      |
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.5.2      | Final revision to DOE-STD-1104                                                                                                       | Initial: December 27, 2024<br>Revised: June 30, 2025<br>(per DOE letter dated December 18, 2024)  |
| Board letter dated<br>July 25, 2025                                    | Semiannual briefing on DOE organizational and regulatory changes                                                                     | August 24, 2025                                                                                   |
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.2.4      | Publish a notice of proposed rulemaking to incorporate DOE-STD-1027 into 10 CFR 830                                                  | September 1, 2025                                                                                 |
| Recommendation 2020-1<br>Implementation Plan<br>Deliverable 5.2.5      | Operating Experience issued for the use of older versions of DOE-STD-1027 for hazard category 3 and below defense nuclear facilities | September 1, 2025                                                                                 |

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Board letter dated August 5, 2025   | Briefing describing path forward on open reporting requirements and DOE implementation plan deliverables                                                 | September 4, 2025                                                                                                            |
| Board letter dated June 12, 2025    | Report and briefing on the reliability of 242-A Evaporator safety controls at Hanford and DOE's non-major modification safety systems process            | September 10, 2025<br>Briefing held on September 22, 2025<br>Written Report due on November 16, 2025, per extension request. |
| Board letter dated June 18, 2025    | Report and briefing related to obsolescent escapeway hoists at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant                                                           | October 16, 2025<br>Briefing held on September 30, 2025<br>Written Report due on November 30, 2025, per extension request.   |
| Board letter dated October 17, 2025 | Report and briefing related to the opportunities for improvement identified in safety investigation                                                      | April 15, 2026                                                                                                               |
| Board letter dated October 16, 2025 | Briefing regarding ensuring long-term confinement of the Transportable Storage Containers at the Hanford Site's Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility | December 15, 2025                                                                                                            |
| Board letter dated October 10, 2025 | Annual briefing on progress towards upgrading engineered safety systems at the Plutonium Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory                      | October 10, 2026                                                                                                             |