

Thomas A. Summers, Acting Chairman
Patricia L. Lee

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



August 5, 2025

The Honorable Christopher 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's (Board) enabling legislation allows the Board to establish reporting requirements for the Secretary of Energy and to issue recommendations regarding issues of adequate protection of public health and safety at Department of Energy (DOE) defense nuclear facilities. DOE is required to provide implementation plans in response to Board recommendations accepted by the Secretary.


To ensure transparency to congressional stakeholders, the Board's enabling legislation also requires the Board to biannually submit to the congressional defense committees a report identifying any requests for information that have been denied by the Secretary, which may include delayed responses to reporting requirements or delayed DOE implementation plan deliverables. These reports are due to Congress on January 1 and July 1 of each year.

The Board appreciates the collaborative efforts of your staff and recognizes the productive and high-quality work they have completed to date. For example, the draft of DOE Order 421.1, *Nuclear Safety Basis*, which is a deliverable for Board Recommendation 2020-1, was developed with the support of a broad range of nuclear safety experts from our respective staffs and DOE contractors. DOE Order 421.1 is critical to adding clarity and removing ambiguity from DOE's processes for developing and maintaining nuclear safety basis documents that ensure adequate protection of the public and workers at defense nuclear facilities.

The enclosure includes a list of open Board reporting requirements and DOE implementation plan deliverables and their due dates, including those associated with Board Recommendation 2020-1. The Board understands DOE is undergoing important organizational changes that may have led to delays in issuing these deliverables.

Pursuant to 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 2286b(d), the Board requests that DOE provide a briefing within 30 days of receipt of this letter that describes its path forward for completing the deliverables listed in the enclosure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Summers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'S'.

Thomas A. Summers
Acting Chairman

Enclosure

c: Ms. Teresa Robbins, Acting Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Mr. Roger A. Jarrell II, Principal Deputy 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 Implementation Plan Deliverable 5.3.2 | Development and issuance of new nuclear safety order | Initial: December 27, 2024 Revised: March 31, 2025 (per DOE letter dated December 18, 2024) |
| Recommendation 2023-1 Implementation Plan Sub-recommendation 2.c | Extent of condition assessment report | April 7, 2025 |
| Recommendation 2020-1 Implementation Plan Deliverable 5.2.3 | Development and issuance of revised DOE-STD-1027 | June 8, 2025 |
| Recommendation 2020-1 Implementation Plan Deliverable 5.5.2 | Final revision to DOE-STD-1104 | Initial: December 27, 2024 Revised: June 30, 2025 (per DOE letter dated December 18, 2024) |
| Board letter date May 28, 2025 | Report related to the status of Savannah River Site Building 235-F decommissioning project | August 12, 2025 |
| Board letter dated July 25, 2025 | Semiannual briefing on DOE organizational and regulatory changes | August 24, 2025 |
| Board letter dated January 30, 2025 | Report on B61 Hazard Analysis Report Review | Initial: May 30, 2025 Revised: August 29, 2025 (per NNSA letter dated May 20, 2025) |
| Recommendation 2020-1 Implementation Plan 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 Implementation Plan 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 |
| 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 |
| Board letter dated June 27, 2023 | Briefing on planned improvements to safety strategy of the 242-A Evaporator at the Hanford Site | September 29, 2025 |
| Board letter dated June 18, 2025 | Report and briefing related to the degraded escape hoists at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant | October 16, 2025 |
| Recommendation 2020-1 Implementation Plan 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 |