

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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May 26, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued Recommendation 2009-1, *Risk Assessment Methodologies at Defense Nuclear Facilities*, on July 30, 2009. The Recommendation identified the need for adequate policies and associated standards and guidance on the use of quantitative risk assessment methodologies at the Department of Energy's (DOE) defense nuclear facilities.

DOE accepted the Recommendation on November 3, 2009, and provided the Board with an implementation plan. The Board considered the adequacy of this plan in accordance with the Board's Policy Statement 1, *Criteria for Judging the Adequacy of DOE Responses and Implementation Plans for Board Recommendations*, found it to be deficient, and communicated this fact to DOE in a letter dated December 18, 2009. Your letter of February 1, 2010, committed to correcting the deficiency. The Board has now received the revised implementation plan forwarded by your letter of April 27, 2010.

Based on the clarifications and commitments in your February 1, 2010, letter and the revised implementation plan, the Board accepts the implementation plan for Recommendation 2009-1. The Board looks forward to DOE's efforts to improve the policies, guidance, and expectations associated with the use of risk assessment methodologies at defense nuclear facilities as outlined in the Recommendation.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone