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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



September 28, 2010

Mr. Dale Knutson
Federal Project Director
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Project
U.S. Department of Energy
Mailstop H6-60
2440 Stevens Center Parkway
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Knutson:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is holding a Public Hearing and Meeting on October 7-8, 2010, to consider safety related design topics of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Project (WTP) at the Hanford Site. The focus of this hearing and meeting is the Pretreatment Facility in the areas of pulse jet mixing, delivery of feed from the High Level Waste Tank Farms, the Pretreatment Facility safety basis, and hydrogen control.

The Board requests your appearance to present insights related to your role as the WTP Federal Project Director regarding the WTP safety and design bases. We anticipate that your participation in this public meeting and hearing will provide needed insight to the Board and DOE regarding safety related aspects of pulse jet mixing, criticality, initiatives to reduce the material-at-risk and complexity in the Pretreatment Facility, and the revised safety design strategy for hydrogen in pipes and ancillary vessels (HPAV). In order to efficiently accomplish the Board's goals, the format for this meeting and hearing will be limited to your responding to questions from the Board members—prepared statements will not be necessary, but can be, if you choose, submitted for the official record of the meeting and hearing. The agenda for the meeting and hearing is posted on the Board's web page, http://www.dnfsb.gov/pub_docs/public_hearings/all/ph.php (<http://www.dnfsb.gov>). The agenda will be updated periodically as preparations for the meeting and hearing are finalized.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D
Chairman