



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your May 5, 2011, letter to the Department of Energy (DOE), the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) expressed its concerns regarding the design of instrumentation and control systems at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site. In that letter, you requested a report and briefing within 30 days.

As you requested, the WTP Project team is preparing a report and briefing to cover the specific instrumentation and control system-related deficiencies noted in the report enclosed in your letter. The report will assess gaps between applicable standards and planned improvements in Bechtel National Incorporated's hazard analysis processes for instrumentation and control safety systems.

DOE makes every effort to meet your requests in a timely fashion; however, in this case, preparation of these materials will take an additional 30 days to allow adequate time for review and approval of our response. We will provide a response to the Board no later than July 5, 2011, and will work with your staff to schedule the briefing after the report is submitted to the Board.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Kenneth G. Picha, Jr., Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security, Office of Environmental Management at (202) 586-5151 or Dr. James B. O'Brien, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Safety, Office of Health, Safety and Security, at (301) 903-1408.

Sincerely,

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Glenn S. Podonsky
Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer
Office of Health, Safety and Security

