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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
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Washington, DC 20004-2901



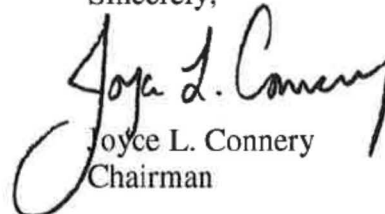
November 18, 2016

The Honorable Frank G. Klotz
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0701

Dear Administrator Klotz:

We reviewed the safety design strategy and supporting technical documents for the combined critical decision 2 and critical decision 3 milestones, *Approve Performance Baseline* and *Approve Start of Construction*, of Phase 1 of the Plutonium Equipment Installation (PEI-1) subproject at Los Alamos National Laboratory. In our opinion, there are no safety issues that would preclude PEI-1 from advancing to the next phase of the project. We will continue to follow National Nuclear Security Administration's efforts to integrate safety into the design as the PEI subprojects proceed through design and construction.

Sincerely,


Joyce L. Connery
Chairman

c: Mr. Robert Raines
Ms. Kimberly Davis-Lebak
Mr. Joe Olencz