



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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September 19, 2011

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

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Following the March 2011, accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, the Department of Energy (DOE) took several actions to review the safety of its nuclear facilities focused on learning how the Department can better prepare to manage potential beyond design basis events. A summary of these actions and the resulting insights, opportunities for improvement, and recommended actions to improve nuclear safety at DOE are included in the enclosed report "Review of Requirements and Capabilities For Analyzing and Responding to Beyond Design Basis Events," August 2011.

Deputy Secretary Poneman has directed the Office of Health, Safety and Security to work with DOE's Nuclear Safety and Security Coordinating Council and DOE (including the National Nuclear Security Administration) Program and Field Offices to develop a strategy for and begin implementing the recommended actions.

We appreciate the expertise and insights provided by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and its staff that have contributed to this effort.

If you have any questions on the report and/or our efforts to implement its recommendations, please contact me or Dr. James O'Brien, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Safety, at (301)-903-1408.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Jessie Hill Roberson
Dr. John E. Mansfield
Mr. Joseph F. Bader

