Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman
Joseph F. Bader
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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Washington, DC 20004-2901

March 31, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has closed Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*. The Recommendation advised the Department of Energy (DOE) of the need for nuclear material packaging that meets technically justified criteria for safe storage and handling outside of engineered contamination barriers. The Board also recommended that DOE prioritize implementation of improved nuclear material packaging consistent with the hazards of the different material types and risk posed by the existing packaging. In March 2008, DOE issued DOE Manual 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging Manual*, which included new requirements for improved packaging of nuclear materials. In a letter to the Board dated September 16, 2009, DOE provided a plan and schedule for implementing the Manual and a prioritized schedule for repackaging nuclear materials.

The Board appreciates the periodic briefings by DOE on its implementation of the Manual at the sites and notes that Los Alamos National Laboratory has made steady progress toward implementing the requirements of the Manual. However, progress toward implementation at some of the other sites has been limited and is well behind DOE's September 16, 2009, schedule.

Therefore, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), the Board requests within 120 days of receipt of this letter: (1) an updated schedule for implementation of the Manual; (2) an updated schedule for repackaging nuclear materials into containers that meet the requirements of the Manual; and (3) DOE's plan for phasing out the Manual and converting the content into an appropriate directive per DOE Order 251.1C, *Departmental Directives Program*, to ensure sustainability of the effort undertaken for Recommendation 2005-1.

Sincerely,

Jessie Roberson

for Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone