April 1, 2015

The Honorable Ernest J. 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 undertaken a new initiative to communicate annually our assessment of the progress on each open Recommendation, and to further inform you of the remaining actions we believe to be the most significant as you strive to meet the intent of the Recommendation. This communication addresses Board Recommendation 2010-1, Safety Analysis Requirements for Defining Adequate Protection for the Public and the Workers.

Pursuant to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Implementation Plan (IP) for Recommendation 2010-1, DOE recently issued Standard 3009-2014, Preparation of Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analysis, and Standard 1104-2014, Review and Approval of Nuclear Facility Safety Basis and Safety Design Basis Documents. We are encouraged by the significantly improved safety requirements contained in these standards. To tangibly strengthen safety, DOE must apply these improved requirements to defense nuclear facilities. Consequently, the most significant remaining step of the Recommendation 2010-1 IP is evaluation of facility safety analyses against certain enhanced requirements from Standard 3009-2014, as stated in Section 6.2 of the IP and in your letter of October 18, 2014. We encourage you to make these evaluations as rigorous and encompassing as feasible, and to begin planning for a longer-term transition to widespread application of Standard 3009-2014.

Sincerely,

Jessie H. Roberson
Vice Chairman

C: The Honorable Frank G. Klotz
Mr. Mark Whitney
Mr. Matt Moury
Mr. Joe Olencz