Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

January 28, 2016

The Honorable Joyce Connery
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

Dear Madam Chair:

On behalf of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator, I propose that we delay providing quarterly updates to the Board on the Radioassay and Nondestructive Test (RANT) Facility until pertinent information becomes available. NNSA last briefed the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) on October 14, 2015, reporting the progress on the proposed seismic designs, cost estimates, and schedule. NNSA also discussed the status of the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) revisions with the Board, at that time.

RANT remains in Cold Standby Mode so material is not allowed in the facility while NNSA resolves the issues related to the facility DSA. More importantly, plans are underway to begin the safety basis upgrade and to revise the DSA to address the issues raised in the December 9, 2014, Board letter. However, since the last NNSA briefing and based on the current status at RANT, there are no updates of interest to report at this time. NNSA does not expect the RANT status to change significantly in the near-term. We will resume periodic briefs after the DSA upgrade and facility upgrade analysis is more mature.

Sincerely,

James McConnell
Associate Administrator
for Safety, Infrastructure and Operations

cc:
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