



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 22, 2025

The Honorable Thomas A. Summers
Acting Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Summers:

On behalf of the Secretary, I am responding to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (DNFSB or Board) letter dated June 18, 2025, regarding the Board's concerns related to critical infrastructure at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). On July 1, 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) discussed the reporting requirements in more detail with DNFSB staff and assessed the time needed to coordinate a response. DOE will need an additional 45-days to provide a written response to the DNFSB by November 30, 2025, and plans to brief the Board by October 16, 2025.

An extension will afford DOE time to coordinate internally to address the Board's questions. We will continue to provide DNFSB staff with periodic updates on our progress.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Mark Bollinger, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office, at (575) 243-4432.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger A. Jarrell II".

Roger A. Jarrell II
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: Joe Olencz, EHSS-1.1
Mark Bollinger, CBFO