



Department of Energy
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



August 5, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Summers:

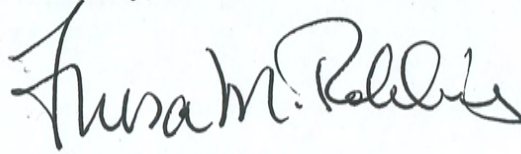
This letter is provided on behalf of the Secretary of Energy in response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (DNFSB or Board) January 30, 2025, letter regarding the revised B61 Hazard Analysis Report (HAR) for assembly and disassembly operations at the Pantex Plant (Pantex). The letter requested a written report on (1) any actions taken or planned for the remaining open safety issues and observations and (2) implementation of these actions across other appropriate weapon programs.

The Board's letter noted several safety issues including design feature implementation, special tooling performance criteria, procedural compliance assumptions, soft mitigative surfaces, and electrostatic dissipative (ESD) footwear. Actions taken thus far include maintaining the format and guidance for modernizing Pantex safety basis documents, updates to design feature implementation guidance, verification of sufficient tooling safety factors and weights, and implementation of worker performance improvement measures.

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Pantex Field Office and Pantex will continue to seek ways to improve the Pantex safety bases, while ensuring adequate protection of the health and safety of the workers, public, and the environment. Pantex will correct the remaining identified discrepancies in the B61 HAR and verify the performance of ESD footwear checkers through analysis and test features. In addition, any improvements planned or accomplished in the B61 HAR will be applied to other safety basis documents, as applicable. The enclosed report provides further details regarding NNSA's response to DNFSB concerns and observations as well as actions taken or planned to address the remaining safety issues.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ahmad M. Al-Daouk, Associate Administrator for Environment, Safety, and Health, at (202) 586-4096.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa M. Robbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Teresa M. Robbins
Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
and Administrator, NNSA

Enclosure