



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



July 20, 2011

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Energy (DOE) needs an additional 60 days to complete Deliverable 5.2.3 of the Department's Implementation Plan (IP) for Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory [LANL] Plutonium Facility Seismic Safety*. Deliverable 5.2.3 is approval by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the refined accident analysis and control selection that was submitted by LANL on May 31, 2011. The additional 60 days is needed due to closure of LANL in response to the Las Conchas fire, and the need for additional time by NNSA to complete its review of the refined accident analysis.

DOE also needs additional time for Deliverable 5.4.4, *Glove-box stand seismic upgrades*. The proposed revised accident analysis in the 2011 update to the TA-55 Documented Safety Analysis, currently being reviewed by NNSA, includes a potential revised scope of glove-box stand seismic upgrades. In light of this potential revised scope and the extended continuing resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 (FY 11), initial installation is now not expected before the middle of FY 12. NNSA will address the path-forward for glove-box stand upgrades and will propose changes to Deliverable 5.4.4 with submittal of Deliverable 5.4.5. In the interim, NNSA is focused on completing upgrades to address the structural issues identified in the Justification for Continued Operation and completing its review of the refined accident analysis (Deliverable 5.2.3) to inform development of the project execution plan (Deliverable 5.4.5).



If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-4379.

Sincerely,

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

James J. McConnell  
Assistant Deputy Administrator  
for Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Operations,  
and Governance Reform  
Office of Defense Programs

cc: M. Campagnone, HS-1.1  
K. Smith, LASO