

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman  
Joseph F. Bader  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



April 23, 2014

Mr. Matthew S. McCormick  
Manager, Richland Operations Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 550, Mail Stop 7-50  
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. McCormick:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) has adequately addressed the remaining issue raised in a letter to you dated July 31, 2012. This letter expressed the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) concerns with the preliminary design and safety basis for Phase I of the Sludge Treatment Project (STP), also known as the Engineered Container Retrieval and Transfer System. This issue will be closed in the Board's next Periodic Report to Congress on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues Concerning the Design and Construction of Department of Energy Defense Nuclear Facilities.

The July 31, 2012, letter identified among other issues, that the preliminary design did not include design requirements or performance criteria for certain key attributes of safety instrumented systems, such as overall system reliability or independence from non-safety systems, as required by the DOE directives and standards.

The STP project team submitted a revised Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis (PDSA) and a Critical Decision 2/3 package to DOE-RL on July 9, 2013. DOE-RL issued its approval of these documents on February 3, 2014. The Board notes that the revised PDSA and final design include appropriate design criteria for safety instrumented systems. The approved documents adequately address the Board's concern. This will be documented in a forthcoming project letter.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone  
Mr. David G. Huizenga