



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

The Honorable Joyce L. Connery
Chair
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Connery:

Revision 1 of the Department of Energy (DOE), Implementation Plan (IP) for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 2012-2 indicates that DOE will inform the Board in writing when Action 3-1, "Provide [safety-significant (SS)] annulus level detectors in each of the [double shell tank (DST)] annuli where the flammable gas hazard exists," is completed. The IP indicates an expected delivery date of December 2016. While significant progress has been made on this action, the focus on the retrieval of waste from DST 241-AY-102 and tank vapor concerns has delayed progress on the expected delivery date for Action 3-1. This letter is to advise the Board that the expected completion date for Action 3-1 is now the fourth quarter of calendar year 2017.

SS annulus level detectors have been installed in 27 of the 28 DSTs. An annulus level detector was not installed in DST 241-AY-102 because the flammable gas hazard in the annulus will no longer exist after waste retrieval of this tank is complete, and therefore, a detector will not be needed. All of the SS annulus liquid level detector hardware has been installed in the remaining 27 DSTs and is currently being tested. There are still significant implementation activities in progress such as training, procedure development, and finalizing project documentation. Once completed, the signals from the SS annulus liquid level detector will be fed, via wireless communication, to a SS alarm panel.

The existing waste level detectors in the DST annuli meet environmental requirements, and the implementation of a specific administrative control in 2013 provides a level of assurance that sufficient ventilation will continue to be provided in order to maintain the DST headspace below 25 percent of the lower flammability limit until Action 3-1 is completed.

The Department will continue to work with the Board and will keep you apprised of ongoing implementation efforts for Recommendation 2012-2. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Smith, Site Manager, Office of River Protection, at (509) 372-2315.

Sincerely,

Monica C. Regalbuto
Assistant Secretary
for Environmental Management

