

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



December 17, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) issued Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility Seismic Safety*, on October 26, 2009. The recommendation stressed the need for expeditious development and implementation of an effective safety strategy for seismically induced events at Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Plutonium Facility.

The Department of Energy accepted the recommendation on February 2, 2010, and provided the Board with an implementation plan on July 13, 2010. The Board considered the adequacy of this plan in accordance with its Policy Statement 1 and found the plan to be deficient in several respects. The Board received two letters clarifying the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) commitments on August 25, 2010, and November 9, 2010. In these letters, NNSA committed to providing transparency on the continued development and application of the decision logic and criteria for evaluating and selecting safety class structures, systems, and components to prevent or mitigate seismically induced events. NNSA also committed to present the Board with a documented alternatives analysis of seismic safety strategy options before selecting a final preferred approach.

Based on the clarifications and commitments described above, the Board accepts the implementation plan for Recommendation 2009-2.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: The Honorable Thomas P. D'Agostino  
Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone