

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

Washington, DC 20004-2901



September 10, 2010

The Honorable Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0113

Dear Dr. Triay:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is holding a Public Hearing and Meeting on October 7-8, 2010, to consider safety related design topics of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Project (WTP) at the Hanford Site. The focus of this hearing and meeting is the Pretreatment Facility in the areas of pulse jet mixing, delivery of feed from the High Level Waste Tank Farms, the Pretreatment Facility safety basis, and hydrogen control.

We anticipate that your participation in this public meeting and hearing will provide needed insight to the Board regarding DOE's experience and understanding, and plans regarding pulse jet mixing, safety and design bases for the WTP's Pretreatment Facility, initiatives to reduce the material-at-risk and complexity in the Pretreatment Facility, and the revised safety design strategy for hydrogen in pipes and ancillary vessels (HPAV). In order to efficiently accomplish the Board's goals, the format for this meeting and hearing will be limited to your responding to questions from the Board members. While the Board will accept a prepared statement from DOE, prepared statements will not be necessary. For convenience, you may submit it for the official record as though read. The agenda for the meeting and hearing is posted on the Board's web page, http://www.dnfsb.gov/pub_docs/public_hearings/all/ph.php (<http://www.dnfsb.gov>). The agenda will be updated periodically as preparations for the meeting and hearing are finalized.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D
Chairman