

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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June 10, 2010

Mr. Glenn S. Podonsky
Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer
Office of Health, Safety and Security
U.S. Department of Energy
HS-1, Germantown Building
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585-1290

Dear Mr. Podonsky:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) would like to thank you for your testimony at our May 12, 2010, public meeting and hearing on safety oversight at defense nuclear facilities. Your insights regarding the Deputy Secretary of Energy's March 16, 2010, memorandum entitled *Department of Energy 2010 Safety and Security Reform Plan* were valuable and helpful in defining a path forward for strengthening the directives and reaffirming the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to rigorous oversight of operations at its high-hazard defense nuclear facilities. As you stated in your testimony, "It is appropriate to reaffirm that HSS will perform disciplined reviews that carefully examine the content and value of each directive, regulation, or requirement and the potential consequences of any change, with particular focus on the impacts to nuclear safety."

The Board understands the fundamental role that the Office of Health, Safety and Security plays in the revision of DOE Directives, oversight strategies, and governance models. The Board looks forward to working with you to enact safety reform that will serve as an enabler for DOE to achieve its vital national security missions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter S. Winokur".

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone