



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

FEB 24 2012

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur  
Chairman  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Energy (DOE) has completed Action 1-4 of the Department's Implementation Plan (IP) for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 2011-1, *Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant* (WTP). The deliverable for Action 1-4 is a letter to the Board transmitting a letter of direction to Bechtel National Incorporated (BNI) to amend the BNI Nuclear Safety and Quality Culture (NSQC) plan to include responses to issues from the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) Independent Oversight Assessment of Nuclear Safety Culture and Management of Nuclear Safety Concerns at WTP (HSS WTP Safety Culture 2012 Report--Action 1-2 of the IP), and to the executive level assessment. The enclosure to this letter provides that letter of direction. The three attachments in the letter of direction were transmitted to the Board in other correspondence.

As described in DOE's letter to the Board of January 30, 2012, and the DOE IP in response to Recommendation 2011-1, DOE oversight will ensure that the BNI corrective action plan for the HSS WTP Safety Culture 2012 report is fully responsive, comprehensive, and effectively implemented. DOE will provide the BNI corrective action plan (BNI CAP) to the Board within 30 days of DOE approval of the BNI CAP. Updates on the status of implementation of the BNI CAP and DOE's review of the implementation of the BNI CAP will be provided to the Board as part of the progress briefings committed to in the Department's IP for Board Recommendation 2011-1.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. James Hutton, Chief Nuclear Safety Advisor, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

Matthew Moury  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Safety, Security, and Quality Programs  
Environmental Management

Enclosure





## U.S. Department of Energy

P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60  
Richland, Washington, 99352

12-WTP-0070

FEB 22 2012

Mr. F. M. Russo, Project Director  
Bechtel National, Inc.  
2435 Stevens Center Place  
Richland, Washington 99354

Dear Mr. Russo:

**CONTRACT NO. DE-AC27-01RV14136 – DIRECTION TO AMEND THE NUCLEAR SAFETY AND QUALITY CULTURE (NSQC) PLAN TO INCLUDE RESPONSES TO THE INDEPENDENT SAFETY AND QUALITY CULTURE ASSESSMENT AND ISSUES FROM THE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT ASSESSMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY CONCERNS AT THE HANFORD SITE WASTE TREATMENT AND IMMOBILIZATION PLANT (WTP)**

- References:
1. DOE letter from S. Chu to P. S. Winokur, DNFSB, "Department of Energy Implementation Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 2011-1," dated December 27, 2011.
  2. ISQCA Team letter from N. Diaz to P. S. Winokur, DNFSB, "Assessment and Recommendations for Improving the Safety and Quality Culture at the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, dated December 1, 2011.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Enforcement and Oversight (Independent Oversight), with the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), conducted an independent assessment of nuclear safety culture and management of nuclear safety concerns at the DOE-WTP. This assessment (Attachments 1 and 2) provides DOE management with a follow-up on the October 2010 HSS review of the WTP nuclear safety culture, and satisfies a Secretarial commitment to the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) in DNFSB Recommendation 2011-1, *Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant*. Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) has been briefed and provided a copy of the report, on January 13, 2012. The DOE Office of Environmental Management has since transmitted acceptance (Attachment 3) of the recommendations in the report to HSS.

In accordance with Reference 1, DOE Implementation Plan for DNFSB Recommendation 2011-1, BNI is directed to amend the NSQC Plan to include responses to Reference 2 Independent Safety and Quality Culture Assessment Team report and issues from the Independent Oversight Assessment of Nuclear Safety Culture and Management of Nuclear Safety Concerns at the Hanford Site WTP (HSS WTP Safety Culture 2012 Report).

Mr. F. M. Russo  
12-WTP-0070

-2-

FEB 22 2012

BNI shall provide a comprehensive status briefing within 30 days and an integrated detailed corrective action plan no later than 45 days after receipt of this letter. At that time the NSQC Plan shall be updated to reflect the detailed corrective action plan.

The corrective action plan should address:

- 1) The finding, "BNI has not been fully effective in implementing its correction action management process for documenting, evaluating, and resolving safety issues as required by DOE Order 226.1B, *Implementation of Department of Energy Oversight Policy*; BNI procedure WTP-GPP-MGT-043, *Corrective Action Management*; the WTP Assurance Program Description CASP-MGY-06-0001; and BNI Quality Assurance Manual, WTP-WAM-QA-06."
- 2) All of the issues and recommendations in the HSS WTP Safety Culture 2012 Report.

A positive safety culture is an integral aspect of an effective Integrated Safety Management System. DOE will be evaluating modification of the award fee to emphasize the importance of the integrated corrective action plan to the long-term success of the WTP Project.

This letter is not considered to constitute a change to the Contract. In the event the Contractor disagrees with this interpretation, it must immediately notify the Contracting Officer orally, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Contract clause entitled 52.243-7, "Notification of Changes."

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Delmar L. Noyes, Deputy Federal Project Director, Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant at (509) 376-5166.

Sincerely,



Dale E. Knutson, Federal Project Director  
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

WTP:DAB

Attachments (3)

cc w/attachs  
BNI Correspondence