

A.J. Eggenberger, Chairman
John E. Mansfield, Vice Chairman
Joseph F. Bader
Larry W. Brown
Peter S. Winokur

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20004-2901
(202) 694-7000



February 6, 2009

The Honorable Thomas P. D'Agostino
Administrator
National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0701

Dear Mr. D'Agostino:

The staff of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) has been monitoring the development of the replacement Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Board's staff has reviewed (1) the enhanced preliminary design, (2) safety basis, and (3) actions described in the National Nuclear Security Administration's letter of May 6, 2008, and the briefing provided to the Board on June 26, 2008. The Board believes that fundamental problems remain with federal oversight of the project and integration of safety into the design of the facility. A substantial number of outstanding design issues require resolution before final design activities are initiated—several of these items were identified in December 2007 and still remain unresolved. Unless these issues are promptly addressed, schedule pressure driven by the need to support the site's critical mission requirements may adversely impact design decisions that affect the overall safety, cost, and utility of the facility.

The enclosed report details the above issues and is provided for your information and use as appropriate. The Board will continue to review the development of the design of this facility.

Sincerely,

A. J. Eggenberger
Chairman

Enclosure

c: The Honorable William C. Ostendorff
Mr. Thad T. Konopnicki
Mr. Donald L. Winchell, Jr.
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.