

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

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August 26, 2009

Gerald L. Talbot, Jr.
Assistant Deputy Administrator for
Nuclear Safety and Operations
National Nuclear Security Administration
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0701

Dear Mr. Talbot:

Pursuant to the certification mandate provided in Section 3112 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) staff responsible for certification activities has reviewed design data for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project provided to date by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The Board's staff is focusing its review on topics previously raised regarding the nuclear safety strategy for CMRR, the Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis, and design of safety-class and safety-significant systems. Those topics were provided electronically to NNSA on November 20, 2008. The staff has documented specific technical issues on a Findings Form. For purposes of the certification review, the staff considers a Finding a design topic related to an issue raised by the staff regarding the CMRR design that has not been adequately resolved and that could preclude certification by the Board.

Finding 1, Site Characterization and Seismic Design—CMRR Seismic Design Issues, was transmitted to your office on January 16, 2009. NNSA provided an initial response to Finding 1 on March 3, 2009, and a final response on August 14, 2009. The Board's staff has evaluated the NNSA final response and has determined that Finding 1 can be considered closed. Enclosed is the completed Finding Form that includes the Board's Final Resolution to Finding 1. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (202) 694-7128.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Kasdorf
Nuclear Facility Design and
Infrastructure Group Lead

Enclosure

c: Mr. Mike Thompson
Mr. James McConnell
Mr. Patrick Rhoads
Mr. Herman LeDoux
Mr. Mark B. Whitaker, Jr.