



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 29, 2010

The Honorable John E. Mansfield
Vice Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Vice Chairman:

This is in response to your December 2, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) provide a report presenting its assessment of the issues associated with existing designs of Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) facilities described in the enclosure with your letter. The enclosure to this letter is the initial response for each issue.

The WTP project will prepare calculations which will demonstrate that as-built conditions will provide acceptable design margins in accordance with applicable codes. The Office of River Protection (ORP) will also provide these calculations to your staff for their review as they are completed and continue a technical dialogue with you as the Project develops these calculations to ensure that they address the Board staff comments.

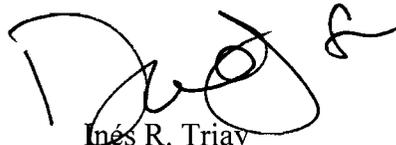
In addition, you requested that the Board be kept apprised of the status of the Peer Review Team (PRT) efforts through a list of issues developed, and their status and resolution until all issues have been resolved. The PRT is a key element in our oversight efforts and will continue to assist ORP efforts in closing these issues.

As a result of recent discussions between ORP, the contractor and your staff, we received additional comments on our approach. Consequently DOE agreed to modify its analysis approach. DOE and staff also mutually agreed that a face-to-face discussion would further ensure our intended analysis will address the Board's underlying concerns. Accordingly, we now intend to complete our analysis and provide it to the Board by May 31, 2010.



If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7709 or Dr. Steven L. Krahn, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security Program at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inés R. Triay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: D. Chung, EM-2
F. Marcinowski, EM-3
S. Krahn, EM-20
M. Whitaker, HS-1.1
S. J. Olinger, ORP
G. A. Girard, ORP