



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 25, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 12, 2010, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board forwarded an evaluation performed by your staff of activity-level work planning at the Hanford Tank Farms. The letter requested a report outlining actions taken or planned by Washington River Protection Solutions, LLC (WRPS) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) to address the work planning and control deficiencies detailed in your staff's report.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters, ORP and WRPS understand your staff's concerns and have taken action to address the issues identified in the report. Enclosure 1 to this letter provides an overview of the actions planned or taken in response to the work planning and control issues identified by your staff. We are confident that these actions will strengthen the work planning, the control program, and overall Integrated Safety Management (ISM) at Hanford's Tank Farms.

The ORP Facility Representative Assessment Activities conducted last summer identified similar issues. ORP issued a Concern, the highest category of an issue to WRPS in September 2009. Some of the concerns included less-than-adequate work packages, inadequate procedures, and work stoppages resulting from inadequacies, workers performing steps out of sequence, workers not performing required steps, and work being performed outside of their requirements. WRPS submitted corrective action plans (CAP) to address the Concern. DOE is working with WRPS to ensure that implementation of the CAP will address our mutual concerns with work control and procedural use and result in strong implementation of ISM. DOE will continue to engage with your staff as corrective actions are taken and completed.

Additionally, Environmental Management (EM) issued Work Planning and Control Guidelines on April 7, 2010, to all of EM's field sites. The Department endeavors to understand your staff's concerns and looks forward to working together toward a common solution. These guidelines serve as a model for their work planning and control programs and are enclosed (Enclosure 2) for your information.



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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Inés Triay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'I' and 'T'.

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environment Management

Enclosures

cc: D. Chung, EM-2
M. Gilbertson, EM-3 (Acting)
S. Olinger, ORP
M. Campagnone, HS 1.1