



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUN 30 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 29, 2010, the Office of Environmental Management (EM) transmitted an initial response to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) regarding issues that the Board identified with existing designs at the Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford. In that response EM acknowledged that further analysis was necessary to address additional comments we received from your staff. The analysis was completed on May 31, 2010. Your staff and the Office of River Protection staff agreed that additional review, by the project Structural Peer Review Team (PRT), of these analyses should be done prior to finalizing the analysis. This information has been openly shared at the staff level, during four meetings (on January 21, February 3, March 26 and May 20, 2010). This review was completed on June 25, 2010, and the final report, along with input from the PRT, was provided to your staff (see enclosed).

Results of these analyses confirm that the existing methodologies used for the structural steel design of the Pretreatment, High-Level Waste, and Low-Activity Waste facilities provide a conservative basis to assure that these structures will perform their intended safety function. The design methodology (e.g. enveloping load and redundant strength capacity) is within the standard industry practices, and provides structures with allowable strength margins that are within the applicable design codes.

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 cursive script that reads "Inés R. Triay".

Inés R. Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

