

Bruce Hamilton, Acting Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson  
Daniel J. Santos  
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



May 24, 2018

The Honorable James Richard Perry  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Perry:

In 2017, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board conducted reviews of the credited safety controls at Los Alamos National Laboratory Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF) and Area G associated with the fire protection program. In both reviews we identified similar issues with the calculations performed regarding separation distances between combustible fuel packages and material at risk, which could impact the safety control strategy and dose consequences to the public.

On November 9, 2017, we communicated to the Department of Energy that the current TWF safety basis provides for adequate protection of public health and safety. For Area G, the general lack of combustibles around the waste storage areas and the limited set of operations currently ongoing at Area G mitigate our concerns with the identified deficiencies. As part of our ongoing independent oversight, we plan to assess the impact to safety of any changes to operations and safety control strategy at Area G.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Hamilton".

Bruce Hamilton  
Acting Chairman

c: Mr. Joe Olencz