

Bruce Hamilton, Chairman  
Jessie H. Roberson  
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



March 26, 2020

Herbert Massie, Jr.



Dear Mr. Massie:

Thank you for your letter of January 25, 2020, related to aging infrastructure and seismic safety of facilities in the DOE defense nuclear complex.

Sub-recommendation 1 of the Board's recently issued Recommendation 2020-1, *Nuclear Safety Requirements*, specifically addresses the risks of aging infrastructure in the complex. That sub-recommendation is for DOE to "Develop and implement an approach including requirements to aging management that includes a formal process for identifying and performing infrastructure upgrades that are necessary to ensure facilities and structures, systems, and components can perform their safety functions."

The Board and its staff continue to review the risks of seismic events at defense nuclear facilities. For example, in a December 27, 2019, letter to the Secretary of Energy, the Board commented on proposed physical upgrades at the Pantex Plant to improve the seismic safety of certain ramps, loading docks, and appurtenances. The Board also transmitted a letter and enclosed staff report to the Secretary on March 21, 2019, regarding the adequacy of the seismic hazard analysis for the Device Assembly Facility at the Nevada National Security Site.

Thank you again for your letter, and for your many years of service on the Board's technical staff.

Yours truly,

*Bruce Hamilton* (via email)

Bruce Hamilton  
Chairman

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Dan Brouillette  
Mr. Joe Olencz