

Bruce Hamilton, Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson
Joyce L. Connery

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



July 15, 2020

The Honorable Dan Brouillette
Secretary of Energy
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Brouillette:

We received a letter from the Department of Energy's Office of River Protection on November 25, 2019, stating that DOE had completed Actions 2-3 and 2-4 of its implementation plan for Board Recommendation 2012-2, *Hanford Tank Farms Flammable Gas Safety Strategy*. These actions concluded installation and implementation of safety-significant real-time flow monitors in the ventilation systems of active double shell tanks (DST) in the Hanford tank farms.

With the exception of the actions 1-4 and 4-3, DOE has completed all actions identified in its implementation plan. Additionally, DOE has included a planned improvement for DST primary tank ventilation systems in the latest change to the tank farms documented safety analysis. When accomplished, the planned improvement will provide safety-significant portable exhaust units, equipped with self-contained generator units that the tank farms contractor will maintain in an available, on-demand condition. The timing of this planned improvement will support installation of mixer pumps in DSTs should DOE decide the mixer pumps are necessary to support waste feed delivery to the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant's High-Level Waste (HLW) Facility.

Given the current schedule for HLW Facility startup and commissioning, we conclude that this path forward sufficiently addresses the remaining Recommendation 2012-2 implementation plan actions.

DOE's actions have resulted in tangible safety improvements that provide adequate protection of the public and workers at the Hanford site. Based on these improvements, we consider Recommendation 2012-2 closed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hamilton".

Bruce Hamilton
Chairman

c: Mr. William I. White
Mr. Brian T. Vance
Mr. Joe Olencz