



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 23, 2011

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 December 1, 2009, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board was informed of our plans regarding the sludge treatment project (STP) at our Hanford site. At that time, a Phase II alternatives analysis was initiated to identify and develop an Engineered Container and Settler Tube treatment and packaging technologies. We initially expected to complete that analysis by the end of June 2011.

Following a disciplined approach, the alternatives analysis has identified several contracting and technology issues, which have extended the evaluation. These issues are now well understood, and a plan is in place to complete the K-Basin STP packaging technology evaluation by March 31, 2012. At that time, a report will be issued that will include a schedule for proposed new interim milestones for bench scale or identified testing in support of process design.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Kenneth G. Picha Jr., Acting 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

