

Joyce L. Connery, Chair  
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair  
Jessie H. Roberson

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES  
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Granholm:

On June 10, 2021, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) sent a letter to the Department of Energy (DOE), which included Technical Report 47, *Seismic Hazard Assessments*, that highlighted concerns with the seismic hazard assessment process at DOE sites. The Board requested a report and briefing on DOE's plans to ensure that identified safety issues do not reoccur. DOE provided its report and briefing to the Board on December 14, 2021, and April 7, 2022, respectively.

The Board appreciates DOE's response and commitments to consider the Board's concerns when revising the applicable DOE directives. However, the DOE report and briefing did not adequately clarify the expectations on timing for entry into the unreviewed safety question (USQ) process in cases where a probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA) update identifies an increased seismic hazard that exceeds qualification assumptions for seismic safety controls. Lack of clarity in DOE's safety requirements has resulted in delayed use of the USQ process, which, in turn, delays consideration of compensatory measures and DOE review. We believe these situations are thoroughly described in the Board's Technical Report 47.

Pursuant to 42 United States Code (USC) § 2286b(d), the Board requests a written response within 45 days on implementation of the USQ process following a PSHA update.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Connery  
Chair

c: Mr. Joe Olencz

**AFFIRMATION OF BOARD VOTING RECORD**

**SUBJECT:** Complex-Wide USQ for PSHA Update

**Doc Control#:** 2022-100-0023

The Board acted on the above document on 06/14/2022. The document was Approved.

The votes were recorded as:

	APRVD	DISAPRVD	ABSTAIN	NOT PARTICIPATING	COMMENT	DATE
Joyce L. Connery	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/09/2022
Thomas Summers	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/14/2022
Jessie H. Roberson	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/09/2022

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Board Members.

*Shelby Qualls*

Executive Secretary to the Board

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Board Member Vote Sheets

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**  
**NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET**

**FROM:** Joyce L. Connery

**SUBJECT:** Complex-Wide USQ for PSHA Update

**Doc Control#:** 2022-100-0023

**DATE:** 06/09/2022

**VOTE:** Approved

**COMMENTS:**

None

*Joyce L. Connery*

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**  
**NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET**

**FROM:** Thomas Summers

**SUBJECT:** Complex-Wide USQ for PSHA Update

**Doc Control#:** 2022-100-0023

**DATE:** 06/14/2022

**VOTE:** Approved

**Member voted by email.**

**COMMENTS:**

None

*Thomas Summers*

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**  
**NOTATIONAL VOTE RESPONSE SHEET**

**FROM:** Jessie H. Roberson

**SUBJECT:** Complex-Wide USQ for PSHA Update

**Doc Control#:** 2022-100-0023

**DATE:** 06/09/2022

**VOTE:** Approved

**Member voted by email.**

**COMMENTS:**

None

*Jessie H. Roberson*