

Joyce L. Connery, Chair
Thomas A. Summers, Vice Chair

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



February 20, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Granholm:

On December 5, 2023, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that noted safety concerns with two key proposed changes to DOE Order 425.1D, *Verification of Readiness to Start Up or Restart Nuclear Facilities*. The Board requested a report and briefing from DOE within 45 days regarding DOE's path forward on the revision to the order.

On January 31, 2024, DOE conveyed its need for an additional 90 days to evaluate and coordinate its response to the Board's concerns. The Board has no objection to DOE's request for a 90-day extension. The Board is pleased to hear that DOE intends to provide its response prior to issuing the revised order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce L. Connery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Joyce L. Connery
Chair

c: Mr. Todd LaPointe, Director, Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security
Mr. Joe Olencz, Director, Office of the Departmental Representative to the Board