



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 30, 2011

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

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 August 3, 2011, you transmitted a letter regarding the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) concern related to "*downgraded safety-class mixing controls*" for nine Pretreatment Facility (PTF) process vessels at the Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP). You requested a report within 60 days that addresses the validity of the heat transfer analyses for PTF process vessels at WTP.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has not completed its technical review and discussions regarding the process by which the validation and verification of the Flow, Aerosol, Thermal, and Explosion Model (FATE™) software model is being accomplished, and whether that process completely addresses the concerns documented in your August 3 letter. This will delay our response on heat transfer analyses by 45 days. While DOE makes every effort to respond in the requested time frame, I believe that additional time is needed to ensure that we are fully responsive to your concerns.

We will provide the requested report by November 14, 2011. If you have any further questions, please contact me or James A. Hutton, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Security, at (202) 586-5151.

Sincerely,

David Huizenga
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

cc: R. Lagdon, S-5
M. Campagnone, HS-1.1
T. Mustin, EM-2
J. Hutton, EM-20 (Acting)
K. Picha, EM-21 (Acting)

