

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



May 1, 2014

The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) is closing Board Recommendation 2004-1, *Oversight of Complex, High-Hazard Nuclear Operations*, issued on May 21, 2004. Having reviewed the status of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2004-1, the Board concludes closure of the Recommendation is appropriate.

Implementation Plan commitment 16, verification of federal safety assurance capabilities, has not yet been completed. The Board will continue to track DOE's efforts in this area, especially in light of the reorganization of DOE's Office of Health, Safety, and Security and recent shortcomings in federal oversight at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Effective federal oversight is vital to assuring adequate protection of the public and workers, and as such, periodic evaluation by DOE of those capabilities is warranted. Therefore, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), the Board requests that DOE provide a briefing and report within 6 months of receipt of this letter on DOE's federal safety oversight capability and its criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of federal safety oversight of high hazard nuclear operations at DOE's defense nuclear facilities.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone