



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

January 13, 2016

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DEFENSE SAFETY BOARD

The Honorable Joyce L. Connery
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
65 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Madam Chairman:

The Department of Energy (DOE) acknowledges receipt of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Recommendation 2015-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Pantex Plant*, which was published in the *Federal Register* on December 3, 2015.

The Department shares the Board's view that actions are needed to improve emergency preparedness and response at Pantex. DOE accepts Recommendation 2015-1, which complements improvement actions that the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has already taken at Pantex as part of the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2014-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response*.

We appreciate the Board's perspective and look forward to our continued interaction on preparing the Pantex Implementation Plan. Additionally, we appreciate the Board's consideration and incorporation of the Department's comments into Recommendation 2015-1. I have assigned Geoffrey L. Beausoleil, Manager, NNSA Production Office, to be the Department's Responsible Manager for this Recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Geoffrey L. Beausoleil at (865) 576-0752.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest J. Moniz".

Ernest J. Moniz

