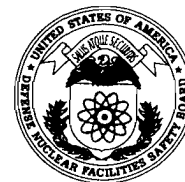


# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman  
John E. Mansfield, Vice Chairman  
Joseph F. Bader  
Larry W. Brown  
Jessie H. Roberson

625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20004-2901  
(202) 694-7000



June 10, 2010

Mr. Glenn S. Podonsky  
Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer  
Office of Health, Safety and Security  
U.S. Department of Energy  
HS-1, Germantown Building  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1290

Dear Mr. Podonsky:

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) would like to thank you for your testimony at our May 12, 2010, public meeting and hearing on safety oversight at defense nuclear facilities. Your insights regarding the Deputy Secretary of Energy's March 16, 2010, memorandum entitled *Department of Energy 2010 Safety and Security Reform Plan* were valuable and helpful in defining a path forward for strengthening the directives and reaffirming the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitment to rigorous oversight of operations at its high-hazard defense nuclear facilities. As you stated in your testimony, "It is appropriate to reaffirm that HSS will perform disciplined reviews that carefully examine the content and value of each directive, regulation, or requirement and the potential consequences of any change, with particular focus on the impacts to nuclear safety."

The Board understands the fundamental role that the Office of Health, Safety and Security plays in the revision of DOE Directives, oversight strategies, and governance models. The Board looks forward to working with you to enact safety reform that will serve as an enabler for DOE to achieve its vital national security missions.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.  
Chairman

c: Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone