



The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 3, 2010

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please be advised that pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 228d(e), the Department of Energy will require up to an additional 45 days to finalize and transmit our implementation plan for addressing the issues raised in the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) Recommendation 2009-2, *Los Alamos National Laboratory Plutonium Facility Seismic Safety*. The Department has made significant progress but requires this additional time to make certain that all technical details are considered as we respond to the recommendation.

Despite the good faith efforts to date, three areas of concern require additional effort. The Department will therefore arrange for follow-up meetings with Board staff to discuss these areas. We are committed to addressing the issues raised by your recommendation.

We appreciate the advice provided by you and your colleagues in this process and look forward to staying in touch as we proceed. Please contact me, or have your staff contact Mari-Josette Campagnone at (301) 903-7053, if you have any questions regarding our path forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. B. Poneman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel B. Poneman

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DNF SAFETY BOARD



cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives