

Joyce L. Connery, Chairman
Jessie H. Roberson, Vice Chairman
Sean Sullivan
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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



July 29, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Moniz:

Since the February 2014 radiological release event at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has engaged in active oversight at both WIPP and Los Alamos National Laboratory to ensure continued adequate protection of public health and safety from inappropriately remediated nitrate salt (RNS) waste similar to the waste that caused the radiological release at WIPP. We recognize that not all of the containers of similar waste are located at defense nuclear facilities under our oversight. Some are currently stored at the facility operated by Waste Control Specialists, LLC in Andrews, Texas over which the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have regulatory jurisdiction.

Pursuant to the reporting requirement in 42 U.S.C. § 2286b(d), we request that you notify us prior to transfer of this RNS waste to any defense nuclear facility. This notification should include relevant information regarding processing, remediation, or treatment done prior to transportation.

Sincerely,


Joyce L. Connery
Chairman

c: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality