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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 22, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Winokur,

Thank you for accompanying me and providing technical support for my February 19 visit to the Hanford site. The contributions of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board continue to be critical for the effective cleanup of radioactive waste at Hanford, and I appreciate your leadership.

I am writing to request the Board's perspective, consistent with your statutory mandate, on the current state of nuclear waste management and treatment activities at Hanford. I request that you specifically address the safety and operation of the high-level waste tank farms. Second, I request that you address the significant number of technical issues that have been raised concerning the proposed design of the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). Finally, I would like the Board to address the current state of the site's safety culture, which is a topic I know that Board has devoted significant effort to review.

I would greatly appreciate your response by April 2, 2013 in advance of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee confirmation hearing for Secretary of Energy nominee Ernest J. Moniz.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for the hard work you, your fellow Board members, and the Board staff do in service of ensuring safety throughout the DOE complex.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
Chairman