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**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES
SAFETY BOARD**

Washington, DC 20004-2901



February 28, 2011

Mr. David B. McCoy
Executive Director
Citizen Action New Mexico
P.O. Box 4276
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196

Dear Mr. McCoy:

On March 3, 2010, you made a presentation to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) expressing your concerns regarding consequences to the public from potential accidents at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). On July 12, 2010, the Board sent you a letter on the Board's efforts to address your concerns. The Board's latest assessment of the safety issues you raised are summarized below:

- SNL has removed all nuclear material from the Hot Cell Facility, Building 6580, and the staff's review concluded it no longer poses a risk to public health and safety. No remaining postulated accident scenario for this facility has radiological consequences to the public.
- The inventory in the Engineered Storage Silos, otherwise known as "yard holes," has been reviewed. The staff's review of the silos concluded that they provide adequate protection of public health and safety.
- The Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility, Building 6597, has established inventory controls that adequately protect the public from the consequences of potential accidents. The staff is working with SNL to ensure that radiological confinement will be maintained for those containers that must be opened before being loaded into the hot cell.
- The Board's staff is planning to perform a review of the safety basis for the Annular Core Research Reactor in 2011. We will inform you if we identify any safety concerns when the review is complete.

The Board takes your concerns seriously and looks forward to further discussions.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Winokur, Ph.D.
Chairman

c: The Honorable Thomas P. D'Agostino
Ms. M. Patty Wagner
Mrs. Mari-Jo Campagnone