



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



January 8, 2013

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director
Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First Street
Livermore, CA 94550

Dear Ms. Kelley:

Thank you for your November 1, 2012, letter. The Secretary of Energy has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In the President's Budget Request for fiscal year (FY) 2013, construction of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility (CMRR-NF) was deferred for at least five years. This decision was made in coordination with the Department of Defense (DoD) and thoroughly briefed to the appropriate Congressional oversight committees as part of hearings on the FY 2013 President's Budget Request.

Consistent with previous National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) activities, appropriate evaluation pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is an integral part of our business. Ongoing mission work at our sites is covered by current NEPA analysis and decisions. However, as a result of the deferral of the CMRR-NF, NNSA must consider all options to maintain continuity in plutonium support capabilities as originally planned for the CMRR-NF. While NNSA continues to evaluate ways to maintain these capabilities in light of current fiscal constraints and the best interest of the American public, please be assured that NNSA will not make any changes to the program of record without timely adherence to NEPA requirements.

You are encouraged to refer to NNSA's public website (<http://nnsa.energy.gov>) for the most current, publicly available information regarding our activities. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Clarence T. Bishop, Associate Administrator for External Affairs, at (202) 586-7332.

Sincerely,

DONALD L. COOK
Deputy Administrator
for Defense Programs

