

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 4, 2018

TO: Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Douglas J. Brown, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Report for April 2018

DNFSB Staff Activity: On April 17–19, 2018, the Board’s SNL Cognizant Engineer and the relieving Cognizant Engineer conducted a quarterly cognizant engineer site visit to include oversight and interaction with SNL and Sandia Field Office (SFO) personnel.

Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) Campaign 18 Update: As previously discussed in the March 2018 monthly report, SNL maintenance personnel procured and replaced the crane’s damaged electrical contacts (shoes) to restore crane operability on April 4, 2018. SNL personnel resumed programmatic operations associated with Campaign 18 on April 5, 2018. On April 12, 2018, SNL personnel completed Campaign 18 programmatic work. Campaign 16 is the last scheduled Campaign for AHCF and is currently scheduled to commence in the Fall of 2018.

Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) Structured Improvement Activity: SNL personnel have executed a structured improvement activity (SIA) at the ACRR Facility targeted to reduce combustible loading and reduce experimental material at risk. This SIA was an effort to establish a process to mitigate the risk of accumulating materials going forward. The SIA identified several opportunities for improvement that will be executed over the course of the next few months, and will include the disposition of unneeded materials that will result in improved efficiencies in material storage and operational space. The Board’s SNL Cognizant Engineers recognized some of these improvements in progress during their quarterly site visit.

ACRR Reactivity Control System Upgrade (RCSU) Update: As discussed in the March 2017 monthly report, SNL has ceased programmatic operations at ACRR to perform the final transition and switchover to the new reactivity control system. SNL personnel have completed the reactivity control system hardware shift. The previous hardware will remain available for the next six months as a precaution to support a return to the previous configuration, if required. SNL personnel have finalized the acceptance test plans and are preparing for the management self-assessment. SNL personnel are performing RCSU acceptance testing and calibrations that are expected to be completed by mid-May 2018.