

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 27, 2018

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** J.W. Plaue and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending July 27, 2018

**DNFSB Activity:** Board Member Joyce Connery and staff member P.J. Migliorini were at the laboratory this week. They held discussions on progress toward standing-up operations at Area G under N3B, ongoing improvements to federal oversight at the NNSA Field Office, completed and planned improvements to the safety posture of the Plutonium Facility, and transition plans under Triad National Security, LLC. Their visit also included walk-downs of Area G, the TA-48 Radiochemistry Facility, the new Low-Level Waste radioactive liquid waste treatment facility and the Plutonium Facility. Ms. Connery also met with several local public interest groups.

**Area G:** N3B is currently using a List of Qualified Individuals, as they can no longer use the laboratory's electronic system for training and verification of worker qualification. During a management oversight verification of the list, a reviewer discovered that the list did not include all of the requirements that were in the qualification standard for waste operators. In response, N3B facility management paused all waste handling operations and started an extent of condition review. The immediate concern was to verify that the personnel required to comply with the minimum staffing in the Technical Safety Requirements had the proper training and qualifications. N3B facility management verified that they were compliant with the Technical Safety Requirements. The extent of condition review continues to evaluate other job responsibilities such as maintenance workers and radiological control technicians. Waste operations remain paused.

**Plutonium Facility–Infrastructure:** Facility personnel completed installation of a new glovebox spool piece in the aqueous chloride processing room (see 7/13/2018 report). They are currently monitoring the spool piece to ensure it is performing its intended confinement function. The work crew performed a post-job review to evaluate lessons learned and develop improvements to use for the next planned spool piece replacement.

**Plutonium Facility–Conduct of Operations:** On Wednesday, Plutonium Facility management issued their ConOps report for June 2018. The report includes discussion of two adverse events; the unexpected solution loss of plutonium-238 aqueous processing waste solution (see 6/8/2018 report) and the overmass in a dropbox associated with concurrent trolley operation (see 6/15/2018 report). The report also includes a discussion of noteworthy actions associated with operations staff self-reporting six potential process deviations that resulted in four categorized as non-infractions and the other two as severity index level 4 and 5. Additionally, the report includes a notable productivity improvement on the completion of a successful time-lapse video of casting operations, the first of a series to support knowledge transfer and training. The focus areas for management observations in July are reader-worker performance of Use Every Time programmatic operating procedures and conduct of operations for maintenance and construction activities.

**Nuclear Criticality Safety:** LANL management recently announced a new leader for the Nuclear Criticality Safety Division.