

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 3, 2018

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Daniel B. Bullen, Ph.D., P.E., Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Report for July 2018

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Staff Activity: There were no onsite Board staff reviews or oversight visits at SNL in July 2018.

Annular Core Research Reactor Reactivity Control System Upgrade (RCSU) - Contractor Readiness Assessment: On July 11, 2018, SNL issued the *Final Report for the Restart of the Annual Core Research Reactor (ACRR) Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA) at Sandia National Laboratories Technical Area V (TA-V)*. The CRA encompassed all aspects of the restart of ACRR operations performed at TA-V. The review addressed safety-significant structures, systems, and components germane to ACRR operations to provide the Startup Authorization Authority with independent confirmation of the readiness to commence ACRR operations, and confirm that TA-V has formed an overall management strategy and team that are adequate to ensure the safety and health of workers and the public, and the protection of the environment. The CRA identified three pre-start findings, three post-start findings, and eight observations. The CRA team concluded that eight of the nine CRA objectives were met; the objective for Conduct of Operations was not met. The pre-start findings included two related to Conduct of Operations and one associated with Feedback and Improvement. The post-start findings included one associated with Conduct of Operations and two related to Training and Qualification. The CRA team concluded that, “subject to satisfactory resolution of the pre-start findings and approval of a corrective action plan for the post-start findings, TA-V has adequately demonstrated readiness, including equipment, procedures, and personnel, to startup and operate ACRR safely following the RCSU project.” The Sandia Field Office (SFO) is currently scheduled to begin the Federal Readiness Assessment on August 13, 2018.

Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) Campaigns 18 and 19: As noted the March 2018 and April 2018 monthly reports, SNL staff had previously relocated all Campaign 18 material from the ACRR floor storage vault to the AHCF. During July 2018, this material was successfully packaged and prepared for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), and Campaign 18 was completed. In addition, SNL personnel began planning and staging activities for Campaign 19, which includes the packaging of higher-activity, remote-handled waste into shielded containers for disposal at WIPP. SNL personnel are currently scheduled to begin loading Campaign 19 materials into shielded containers on August 13, 2018.

Annual Site-Wide Emergency Exercise in Technical Area V: On July 25, 2018, SNL conducted its annual site-wide emergency management exercise. This year’s scenario involved an active shooter in TA-V and included participation from multiple organizations and external agencies. SFO and SNL are in the process of evaluating whether all exercise objectives were met.