

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 22, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: J.W. Plaue and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending February 22, 2019

The laboratory was closed on Tuesday due to snow.

DNFSB Activity: On Wednesday, Board Member Santos visited the laboratory accompanied by staff members J. Gilman, P.J. Migliorini, and C.J. Roscetti. Mr. Santos met with senior leadership from the NNSA and EM Field Offices and their contractors. He also walked down the Plutonium Facility, Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility, and Area G. On Thursday, the Board conducted a public hearing in Albuquerque that included the EM and NNSA Los Alamos Field Office Managers as panelists. The subject of the hearing was the new DOE Order 140.1, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*.

RANT Shipping Facility–Readiness: On Thursday, a five member federal team completed their two-day readiness assessment for restart of the RANT Shipping Facility. Overall, they concluded that the facility is ready to safely operate with no pre-start or post-start findings. They further noted that LANL continues to demonstrate excellence in its achievement of readiness.

Transuranic Waste Management: With the RANT Shipping Facility nearly ready to operate and provide all-weather loading capability, the critical path for resuming risk reduction across the laboratory is the approval of transuranic waste streams for receipt at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Currently, N3B has a limited population of containers that are approved for shipment, but they are still working with Triad management to develop arrangements to use RANT. Triad expects to receive approval in the next month for about 120 waste containers originating from the Confinement Vessel Disposition project. Triad expects approval of additional containers later this spring, which should facilitate improved optimization of shipment payloads

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF): Last Wednesday, TWF personnel received their first shipment of 2019, which included 15 transuranic waste drums previously staged at the Plutonium Facility. The drums originated at the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research building. This brings the total inventory at TWF to 363 drums or about 30 percent of the facility's overall capacity. While TWF has provided some relief, waste container storage locations at the Plutonium Facility remain at about 90 percent of their capacities.

On Wednesday, the NNSA Field Office concurred with Triad's revised project execution plan to reclassify the TWF fire suppression system as safety-significant. The plan anticipates implementation of the revised safety basis by April 30, 2019. Separately, TWF engineering personnel are finalizing details for seismic qualification testing of the redesigned seismic power cutoff switches. They anticipate providing the NNSA Field Office with a revised schedule that reflects a slip from the directed completion date of January 14, 2019 (see 8/4/2017 report).

Area G–Safety Systems: N3B personnel have procured wire cabling to complete repairs of the inoperable safety class vehicle barriers (see 1/18/2019 report). Repair work is in progress and is being prioritized based on dome inventory and impacts to vehicle restrictions.