

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 3, 2020

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** J.W. Plaue and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending January 3, 2020

**Performance Management:** Last month, NNSA approved the Performance Evaluation Report for fiscal year 2019. Overall, NNSA rated Triad as “Good” with a 66 percent score. The score was impacted by challenges in the nuclear threat reduction and operations and infrastructure goals. Of interest to the defense nuclear facilities, NNSA noted increased sensitivity to entry into the New Information process; a high-level of responsiveness to safety basis quality issues; numerous challenges with construction project management, schedule execution, and oversight; continuing conduct of operations issues; struggles implementing an effective transuranic waste management program; and schedule delays for the disposition of the Flanged Tritium Waste Containers at Area G.

**Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF):** Triad inherited from the predecessor contractor challenges associated with the projects for the low-level liquid waste (LLW) and transuranic liquid waste (TLW) enduring capabilities that are necessary to replace the RLWTF built in 1963. In particular, the LLW effort achieved project completion in November 2018; however, Triad’s current estimate for transition to radiological operations is 2022 based on the need to complete a number of equipment modifications required for operations. The TLW effort has recently resumed development of Critical Decision 2/3. Based on process equipment refurbishment efforts completed in 2005, Triad believes the existing system can support operations until approximately 2034.

**Transuranic Waste Management:** Last month, EM and NNSA jointly responded to the New Mexico Environment Department’s request for additional information on transuranic waste containers that had received non-conformances against the Basis of Knowledge for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The response provides additional details on seven containers and states that based on current information five of the containers do not exhibit ignitable, corrosive, or reactive hazards. There is insufficient information for the other two containers which will require future characterization and remediation.