

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 3, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Daniel B. Bullen, Ph.D., P.E., Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Report for June 2020

LLNL Operating Status in Response to COVID-19: On June 24, 2020, the Livermore Field Office (LFO) approved the LLNL plan entitled *Phased Recovery and Re-Entry Status and Path Forward*. This plan governs the resumption of the activities necessary to bring LLNL and the LFO to an operating status of Normal Operations with Maximized Telework. LLNL prepared the plan in collaboration with LFO using the May 18, 2020, *Department of Energy COVID-19 Return to the Federal Workplace Framework*; the June 2, 2020, *National Nuclear Security Administration Phased Recovery and Re-Entry Plan*; and prevailing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of Bay Area Health Officials, and state and local health department shelter-in-place directives. Also, on June 24, 2020, LLNL entered Phase 1 of its process to resume work on site. Phase 1 includes maximized telework, essential only travel, and maximized use of virtual training, and allows visitors on site on an “exception only” basis. Over the past month, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) continued a gradual return of essential employees to the site to support activities related to facility operations, construction projects, classified and non-classified office-based activities, stockpile modernization, experimental lab work, and specific operations, maintenance, and facility support activities.

Nuclear Operations Directorate Reorganization: On June 2, 2020, LLNS announced the reorganization of the Nuclear Operations Directorate into the Environment, Safety, and Health Directorate and the Weapons and Complex Integration Directorate for Operations. LLNS noted that this reorganization will improve cost-effectiveness of LLNL nuclear operations; better align roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountabilities with operations; and ensure that the nuclear operations organization is led by experienced nuclear operations professionals. On June 15, 2020, LLNL requested LFO to approve changes to Section 5.2, Contractor Organization, of the Technical Safety Requirements for Building 239, Building 331, Building 332, Building 334, and Waste Storage Facilities. These page changes ensure the description of the management of the LLNL nuclear facilities reflect the reorganization of the Nuclear Operations Directorate. On June 26, 2020, LFO approved the page changes to these safety bases documents. The Nuclear Operations Directorate reorganization becomes effective on July 5, 2020.

Request for Configuration Equivalency Evaluation: On May 28, 2020, LFO requested that the Materials Identification and Surveillance – Working Group (MIS-WG) at the Savannah River Operations Office complete an equivalency evaluation for the LLNL Accelerated Alloy (AA) packaging configuration based on Department of Energy Standard 3013-2018, *Stabilization, Packaging, and Storage of Plutonium-Bearing Materials*. The AA material will be packaged into 3013 Standard compliant inner and outer containers using the existing packaging equipment used for all LLNL 3013 containers previously packaged. LLNL provided the technical basis for how the intent of the standard is met for the AA materials and how the containers will provide equivalent safety. LLNL also requested that the MIS-WG review and recommend for approval this equivalence of the AA packaging configuration so that these containers may be included in the Integrated Surveillance and Monitoring Program for 3013 containers (AMNMS-15-0014).