

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 3, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Austin R. Powers, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Report for June 2020

DNFSB Staff Activity: The Board's staff conducted no onsite activities at NNSS during June.

COVID-19 Impact on NNSS: During June, NNSS transitioned to Phase 2. In this phase, the site will continue executing approved mission-critical and high priority programmatic activities associated with the "Normal Operation with Maximum Telework" work status. A low to moderate number of the workforce will return to work, while others (including self-identified vulnerable individuals) will remain on telework. Personnel expected to return in Phase 2 include leadership and staff members who support primary mission essential functions and mission essential functions, or other high priority mission activities. Workers who have not yet returned to work, but are expected to do so during Phase 2, will be required to take training on protocols for COVID-19 mitigation measures.

Downdraft Table Restart Status: As discussed in the NNSS Monthly Report for February 2020, Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS), and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory personnel completed a joint contractor readiness assessment for the downdraft table in the Device Assembly Facility (DAF). During June, the federal readiness assessment (FRA) team began to execute their assessment. The FRA team consists of field office personnel from Sandia, Nevada, Livermore, and Los Alamos. The FRA will assess the equipment, personnel, safety features, operating procedures, and safety and support systems provided by DAF where the downdraft table activities are located. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most FRA team members have been conducting interviews using teleconference calls. In addition, local FRA team members have been video recording simulated activities to allow remote team members to observe and evaluate essential activities. The FRA team plans to complete their assessment and final report in July.

DAF Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) System Project: MSTS has been executing plans to replace the three obsolete UPS systems within DAF. MSTS credits the one UPS system that is connected to the credited emergency lighting. The emergency lighting supports the ability of high explosives handlers to place high explosives in a safe and stable state in the event of commercial power loss. When replacing the UPS systems, MSTS will rely on battery operated emergency lighting. As a result, MSTS is preparing a change notice to the DAF safety basis to support this new configuration. During the development of the change notice, MSTS discovered that the emergency lighting was credited for hazard scenarios that did not involve high explosives. Therefore, MSTS implemented the unreviewed safety question determination (USQD) process and found that this resulted in an incorrect controlled frequency for the hazard scenarios that do not involve high explosives. However, MSTS found that the risk for these hazards is still sufficiently low for the public and workers after removing the emergency lighting and UPS as credited controls, so additional controls do not need to be considered. MSTS determined this to be a positive USQD and plans to revise the hazard analysis scenarios in the safety basis change notice to address the issue.