

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 27, 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending August 27, 2021

**Transuranic Waste Management:** Last Friday, N3B and Central Characterization Project personnel completed a cold mockup demonstration of transuranic waste mobile loading operations. Mobile loading has not taken place at Area G since last October. The demonstration activity took place in a parking lot outside of the Area G facility boundary. Mobile cranes are currently prohibited within Area G, regardless of whether material-at-risk is present, due to current operational restrictions that address safety basis issues (see 2/26/2021 report). The intent of the demonstration was to maintain proficiency for the activity while it cannot be performed normally. It proceeded without incident other than a missing step in a procedure which was identified and corrected through N3B's immediate procedure change process.

Triad has not performed mobile loading at Technical Area 55 since last November. They plan to exercise the activity in October before a full year has elapsed so that they would not have to perform a readiness review per DOE directives.

**Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF):** On Tuesday evening after restoring operability of the fire suppression system, TWF personnel ended the one-hour fire watch that had been in place following damage to fire protection systems from a lightning strike earlier in the month (see 8/6/2021 report). They replaced the damaged fire pump controllers and brought in the vendor to troubleshoot the generator. The replacement components do not meet the quality assurance requirements for the future safety-significant designation of the system. Parts meeting those requirements have been ordered. Implementation of the new safety basis will be delayed pending receipt and installation of those parts and testing of the system.

**Plutonium Facility–Conduct of Operations:** A corporate team from one of Triad's integrated subcontractors performed a review this week and last week of conduct of operations at Technical Area 55. They briefed the results of their review to Triad and NNSA Field Office personnel on Tuesday. The review team had no findings and concluded that the current state of conduct of operations was adequate to perform work safely. However, they noted that Triad needs additional qualified personnel and improved rigor in conduct of operations to perform work effectively. The final report from the review including its recommendations for improvements is expected in mid-September.

**Plutonium Facility–Criticality Safety:** On Wednesday, Triad submitted to the NNSA Field Office for concurrence the recovery plans to restore negative pressure chilled water systems to service following the overflow event in one system last month (see 7/23/2021 report). The recovery plans include providing administrative verifications intended to prevent overfilling the systems during refill and restart until engineered controls are proposed, evaluated, and implemented. NNSA is evaluating the submittal.