

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 17, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending December 17, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: On Monday, Triad personnel remotely briefed members of the Board's staff on the interim risk assessment results for the Plutonium Facility Seismic Performance Reassessment Project. The interim risk results suggest that the facility will be able to meet seismic design category 3. Triad is proposing to wait for the updated site probabilistic seismic hazard analysis to be completed before performing a reduced-scope final risk assessment. The final risk assessment is expected to be completed within two years.

Severe Weather: On Wednesday, the laboratory and surrounding region experienced a severe weather event with high winds and wintry precipitation. Unstable electrical power and outages occurred throughout the laboratory. The main impacts to nuclear facilities were power losses at Area G where two utility poles came down, the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility, and the RANT Shipping Facility. The Emergency Operations Center also lost power and ran on its backup generators. All nuclear facilities, the Emergency Operations Center, and most other laboratory buildings had power restored by the end of Wednesday.

Federal Oversight: On Thursday, NNSA Headquarters personnel and a supporting contractor briefed Triad on the Safety, Analytics, Forecasting, Evaluation, and Reporting (SAFER) effort. SAFER is a software tool for collecting, managing, and viewing data from numerous input sources. NNSA has started populating the tool at sites across the complex to assist in their oversight. At the laboratory, NNSA is currently focusing on populating the tool in the functional areas of fire protection, maintenance, electrical safety, radiation protection, and safety basis. NNSA intends for Triad to be the first management and operating contractor to pilot using the tool to aid data management on the contractor side.

Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis: Last week Triad responded to the NNSA Field Office's request for an impact assessment for incorporating DOE-STD-5506-2021, *Preparation of Safety Basis Documents for Transuranic Waste Facilities*, into the modern TA-55 safety basis under development (see 9/17/2021 report). Their new schedule estimates an impact that delays final submittal of the new safety basis from November 2022 to January 2023. Other factors had shifted planned submittal from March 2022 to November 2022.

Emergency Management: The NNSA Field Office transmitted to Triad the assessment report on emergency preparedness capabilities at the lab from the DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments. They requested Triad provide a corrective action plan to address the findings in the report. The assessment covers the five year period from October 2015 through September 2020. The first finding was that Triad has not established or maintained an adequate site-level exercise program to validate all its emergency response capabilities for identified hazards. Many of the capabilities that have not been demonstrated recently involve interface with other organizations such as regional hospitals. The second finding was that Triad has not self-identified an accurate status on the readiness and effectiveness of its response capabilities.