

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 26, 2023

TO: Katherine R. Herrera, Acting Technical Director
FROM: A. Boussof and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending May 26, 2023

Staff Activity: On Monday, a headquarters team held a second remote interaction with Triad and NNSA Field Office personnel to continue the staff's review of glovebox glove integrity (see 4/14/2023 report).

Emergency Management: On Tuesday, the resident inspectors accompanied NNSA Field Office, Triad, and Los Alamos Fire Department personnel on a tour of the Los Alamos Medical Center Hospital decontamination unit and discussed their capabilities to receive and treat radiologically contaminated individuals.

Area G–Operations: Last Thursday, N3B personnel partially restored access to Dome 230, which was restricted following the emergency response event two weeks ago (see 5/11/2023 report). Continued radiological and chemical sampling activities following the event identified no unusual readings. Access to the dome is currently controlled with a daily shift order providing interim entry requirements while additional evaluations are performed. The shift order requires that industrial hygiene personnel survey Dome 230 to assess facility conditions at least once a day when work activities will be performed in the dome. It also requires that any workers entering the dome be accompanied by a qualified individual with industrial hygiene monitoring equipment. With access to Dome 230 partially restored, N3B personnel were able to complete moving all remaining waste containers identified as having the potential for energetic chemical reactions to Dome 33 (see 11/26/2021 report).

Last week N3B management released the stop work on excavation of corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) (see 3/17/2023). This week they completed excavation of one CMP and moved it to the staging pad for future size reduction. Closure of corrective actions from the federal readiness assessment for CMP size reduction operations are nearing completion, and facility personnel plan to commence size reduction this summer (see 4/7/2023).

Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis: The NNSA Field Office concurred on the revised Project Execution Plan for upgrading the Plutonium Facility's safety basis (see 5/5/2023 report).

Plutonium Facility–Infrastructure: The Plutonium Facility remained in limited operations mode this week (see 5/19/2023 report). Personnel completed the planned connection efforts for the new facility control system; however, fire riser work is still in progress.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building–Safety Basis: The NNSA Field Office responded to Triad's submittal of the self-terminating temporary safety basis modification supporting the third phase of disposition activities for americium bearing material from offsite (see 3/24/2023 report). The Field Office did not approve the submittal and requested that Triad either update the existing safety basis or update the temporary modification to provide sufficient justification that the hazards associated with the activities are verified not to exist or can be remediated.