

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 19, 2024

**TO:** Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending July 19, 2024

**Area G–Safety Basis:** Last Friday, N3B submitted a newly developed safety basis for Area G to the Environmental Management Field Office for review and approval. The safety basis approval authority will be the Environmental Management Chief of Nuclear Safety following a recommendation for approval from the Field Office. The safety basis was developed using current DOE standards: DOE-STD-3009-2014, *Preparation of Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analyses* and DOE-STD-5506-2021, *Preparation of Safety Basis Documents for Transuranic (TRU) Waste Facilities*. The Board's staff is conducting a review of the new safety basis.

**Area G–Operations:** On Tuesday, while workers were performing movements of TRU drums in Dome 230, a waste drum fell several inches onto the floor from a pallet loaded on a forklift. Facility personnel entered the abnormal operating procedure for a waste container of questionable integrity. No workers were impacted by the falling drum, and there was no radioactive contamination or volatile organic compounds detected. Initial evaluation of the drum identified minor scuffing, but no damage that would impact its safety function. Drum moves are paused while corrective actions are being developed and implemented. One corrective action is to reevaluate the current procedural allowance for moving drums on a forklift for temporary placement without securing them.

**Plutonium Facility–Criticality Safety:** Last Wednesday, while performing annual fissionable material operation reviews, criticality safety personnel identified two criticality safety infractions. In one room they discovered a container partially full of solvent that exceeded the volume limit for containers holding liquid in that glovebox. Responding personnel determined the condition was within analyzed conditions and restored the box to compliance. In a different room, they identified a second infraction involving an exceedance of a mass limit. The requirements for this glovebox are complicated; the box was compliant with one mass limit, but not a more restrictive requirement for the types and storage conditions of the materials. While attempting to restore this box to compliance this week, personnel identified two other control non-compliances. The current condition is considered safe and stable, and personnel are developing a formal recovery plan to restore the box to compliance with criticality safety requirements.

**Emergency Management:** On Tuesday, Triad and NNSA Field Office personnel held a workshop to practice deploying Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capabilities in an alternate location. They performed a callout for emergency response organization personnel to report to a laboratory-controlled building in the town of Los Alamos and set up EOC capabilities. Triad also has a building in Santa Fe that is identified as an alternative EOC location. The workshop participants were able to establish capability and identified several improvements for future deployment of alternate EOC capabilities.