

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 8, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
Report for Week Ending June 8, 2007

DNFSB Staff Site Activity: Staff member T. Hunt was at LLNL this week providing site representative augmentation.

Configuration Management (CM) Implementation: The current resource-loaded Nuclear Materials Technology Program (NMTP) CM schedule is again being re-baselined to ensure continued alignment and integration with the Documented Safety Analysis implementation and other high priority projects. LSO has requested that LLNL submit the revised schedule by the end of June. LSO has also requested an update on the development of a Project Execution Plan and Risk Management Plan for CM implementation.

Weapon Response for Pantex: Several weeks ago, LLNL provided a weapon response to Pantex that identified a couple of potential burning dispersal scenarios that had not been recognized previously. LLNL had assumed in its response that a certain preconditioning function had occurred prior to a component being breached, leading to the anticipated event. Based on additional input from Pantex regarding constraints and scenario definitions, the weapon response and technical basis documents are in the process of being revised and clarified. It is expected that the scenarios that were previously determined to be anticipated will now be acceptably unlikely to occur.

Site 300 Permit: Last November, the local air district authority issued a permit to LLNL increasing the allowable daily and annual limits of explosives that could be detonated at Site 300. The air district subsequently withdrew its approval after a stakeholder appeal was lodged that cited procedural violations in how the environmental review was performed. LLNL resubmitted the application in April for reconsideration and is awaiting a response. LLNL maintains that its Site 300 activities are performed such that radioactive material emissions are well below the regulatory limits.

Weapon Quality Assurance: LLNL recently performed various surveillance activities on a specific pit. LSO observed the receipt inspection and coordinate measuring machine operations and found them to be in compliance with QC-1, Revision 10, *DOE/NNSA Weapon Quality Policy*.

Radiography Facility Operations: Operations were performed in the Radiography Facility this week. The operation involved radiography of a plutonium pit. Procedural performance continues to improve. Specific improvements were observed this week in the areas of work permit development and radiological controls posting. The work permit for this operation correctly specified that the radiation levels from the pit would exceed the threshold for a radiation area. Based on gamma and neutron radiation surveys during receipt inspection, the dose rates exceeding the threshold for a radiation area were confirmed and the area was properly posted.