

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 25, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Report for Week Ending March 25, 2005

Independent Oversight Inspection: In January, the Department of Energy Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA) issued its report for the inspection of environment, safety, and health (ES&H) management at LLNL that was conducted from October 18-28, 2004. The report documents twenty four findings that LLNL and the Livermore Site Office (LSO) must address in an integrated corrective action plan. On March 11, 2005, LLNL provided LSO with a corrective action plan for findings applicable to LLNL programs and facilities. LSO is currently reviewing the adequacy of the LLNL corrective actions as part of preparing the integrated plan for submittal to OA.

The LLNL input for the corrective action plan is intended to address the twenty two findings applicable to LLNL. Some of the findings are facility-specific, while others are institutional. Many of the facility-specific findings relate to operation of the Plutonium Facility. The corrective actions specified for several of the Plutonium Facility findings reference recovery plans for administrative control programs in the areas of radiation protection, procedures, maintenance and quality assurance. The institutional findings are primarily related to the implementation of Integrated Safety Management.

Plutonium Facility Administrative Control Programs (ACPs): Plutonium Facility ACPs required by the facility Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs) have been declared as TSR violations (see weekly report dated March 4, 2005). LLNL provided TSR recovery plans to LSO on March 11, 2005. The programs covered by the specific recovery plans are configuration management, unreviewed safety question, radiation protection, procedures, maintenance, quality assurance, and occurrence reporting. Each recovery plan identifies the conditions that resulted in the declaration of a TSR violation and the actions needed to restore compliance with the TSRs. LLNL requested LSO approval of the recovery plans.

In general, the actions required by the recovery plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2005. However, a maintenance program commitment to test or replace fire suppression system check valves and control valves associated with the firewater storage tanks is not scheduled to be completed until September. Additionally, several corrective actions associated with the quality assurance program are not scheduled to be completed until the September-October time frame.

LLNL had also committed to assess the remaining ACPs required by the TSRs by March 31, 2005, but LLNL has requested an extension to completing those assessment. The current commitment is to complete assessments of the Fire Protection Program and the Criticality Safety Program by April 15, 2005. The completion date for assessing the remaining programs is now August 31, 2005.