

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 5, 2006

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)  
Report for Week Ending May 5, 2006

**Configuration Management:** On April 27, 2006, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) Manager sent an information package to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) containing information requested to support closure of Board Recommendation 2000-2, *Configuration Management, Vital Safety Systems*. Included in the information package was an updated vital safety system matrix for nuclear facilities at LLNL. The package also contained assessments of vital safety systems completed since July, 2004. The specific reviews cited were:

- *NNSA LSO and LLNL Joint Review of Vital Safety Systems in Building 332,*
- *NNSA LSO Evaluation of LLNL Configuration Management in Buildings 331, 334, 239, 251, and Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management Facilities;*
- *NNSA LSO Evaluation of LLNL Configuration Management in Building 332;* and
- *NNSA LSO and LLNL Report of Plutonium Facility Criticality Alarm System Configuration Review.*

The LSO letter states that with the implementation of DOE Order 420.1A, *Facility Safety*, the Phase II Safety system assessment process will be institutionalized at LLNL. As part of the implementation plan for the Cognizant System Engineer Program, LLNL has committed to the use of Phase II type assessment criteria and approach documents and these requirements will be included in the LLNL institutional Environment, Safety and Health Manual.

**Environment, Safety and Health Panel Meeting:** On May 2, 2006, the site representative met with the University of California (UC) Environmental, Safety and Health Panel. The panel reports to the UC President's Council on National Laboratories. The charter of the panel includes the following:

- Review and advise the President's Council on laboratory management performance in the areas of environmental protection, safety and health;
- Monitor the effectiveness of the laboratories in fostering an atmosphere conducive to scientific inquiry and development of new technologies while meeting regulatory requirements; and
- Advise the Council on DOE directives related to environmental protection, safety and health that may impose unnecessary and undue regulatory or contractual burdens on laboratory management.

The site representative participated in the executive session that included presentations by LLNL's Director and the NNSA LSO Deputy Manager. The primary topics discussed by the site representative were resolution of the Plutonium Facility passive confinement strategy, configuration management of vital safety systems in nuclear facilities, the Plutonium Facility resumption process, and nuclear material packaging requirements. The need for LLNL to improve the process for implementing criticality safety controls, radiological work practices, and conduct of operations at the laboratory was also discussed.