

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 13, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
Report for Week Ending October 13, 2006

Startup and Restart of Nuclear Facilities: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs has reviewed the Livermore Site Office (LSO) corrective action plan to address deficiencies in the LLNL and LSO programs for compliance with DOE Order 425.1C, *Startup and Restart Of Nuclear Facilities*. This week, certain actions were required to be completed and reported back to NNSA. Specific actions included:

- review of contractor planned startup activities which require a readiness assessment using contractor procedures and documented in a revised Startup Notification Report (SNR);
- identification of compensatory measures to be implemented until LSO and LLNL procedures are approved; and
- commitment to submit Plans of Action (POAs) and Implementation Plans (IPs) for startups and restarts to the Central Technical Authority (CTA).

LSO provided a response to NNSA to address the above noting that all activities listed on the recently approved SNR have been discussed with LLNL and the basis for selection of the readiness review level is appropriate based on order criteria. LSO and LLNL will continue to use senior experienced personnel to assist in the readiness process and all recently approved POAs and IPs have been submitted to the CTA.

Plutonium Facility Training: On October 9, 2006, LSO received an updated Training Implementation Matrix (TIM) for the Plutonium Facility from the Nuclear Materials Technology Program (NMTP) Program Leader. The TIM is an update to the previous revision dated July 2005, and serves as a crosswalk between DOE Order 5480.20A, *Personnel Selection, Qualification, and Training Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities*, and the LLNL implementing documents. The TIM also provides the requirements for the certified and qualified positions identified in the Documented Safety Analysis for operation of the facility.

LLNL Support for Pantex Operations: LLNL and LSO provided a briefing to the staff via video conference this week on the LLNL process used to support nuclear explosive operations at Pantex, and the LSO oversight of that process. The briefing provided an update on improvements in the weapons response process and the status of implementation of DOE-STD-3016, *Hazards Analysis Reports for Nuclear Explosive Operations*. A definitive schedule for complete implementation of the standard has not yet been developed.

LSO Senior Nuclear Safety Advisor: NNSA has re-posted the announcement for a Senior Nuclear Safety Advisor vacancy at LSO. The position was originally posted in May and re-posted in July. However, no selection was made to fill the vacancy. The closing date for submittal of applications for the most recent posting is November 16, 2006.