

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending January 28, 2011

DNFSB Staff Activity: T. Hunt was at the Laboratory this week to observe a management self assessment of the Facility Representative program at the Livermore Site Office (LSO).

Livermore Site Office: LSO began operating under a new organizational structure this week. A key change of relevance to the nuclear facility operations is the creation of a new Assistant Manager (AM) for Defense Programs. This position, which is to be posted, merged program and nuclear safety personnel, including safety basis, nuclear criticality safety, and startup and restart functions. Previously, these elements were integrated into an operations team, but reported to separate AMs. The AM for Defense Programs reports to the Technical Deputy for Programs and Business, which also includes AMs for interagency missions, contract administration, and resource management. The Technical Deputy for Security, Safety, and Operations includes the AM for Facility Operations. This AM retains the Facility Representative, the Safety System Oversight engineering, and emergency management functions. A new AM for Environment, Safety and Health was also created. This position, which is to be posted, includes subject matter expert disciplines such as health physics, industrial hygiene, and fire protection.

This week, LSO performed a management self assessment of the Facility Representative program. The assessment team included six external personnel and utilized the assessment criteria contained in Department of Energy Standard 1063, *Facility Representatives*, as well as criteria developed by the Chief of Defense Nuclear Safety. Overall, the team found that the Facility Representative program had improved significantly since 2005 and was generally meeting expectations. The team provided several opportunities for improvement, including the need to increase staffing levels for succession planning and to ensure coverage in the event of staff loss, enhance subject matter expert support, and clarify issue ownership. A corrective action plan will be developed.

Work Planning and Control: On Wednesday, LSO conducted continuing training on oversight of work control at the activity level for the Facility Representatives. The training was given in support of the Site Office Manager's goal of improving work control processes this year. The Senior Technical Advisor is responsible for coordinating LSO's work control oversight program and conducted the training. The training included an overview of roles and responsibilities, an explanation of LSO's revised work control processes and procedures, and a discussion of the NNSA document entitled, *Activity Level Work Planning and Control Processes Attributes, Best Practices, and Guidance for Effective Incorporation of Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance*. In the Site Representative's opinion, examples using work control documents from the Laboratory would have significantly improved the effectiveness of the training.