

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending January 15, 2010

Hardened Engineering Test Building: On January 8, 2010, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) issued a safety evaluation report approving the annual update to the documented safety analysis and technical safety requirements document. LSO's approval was without conditions. The credited control set for the facility remains essentially unchanged—no safety class or safety significant systems, structures, or components and a set of seven specific administrative controls (reduced from eight). These safety basis documents were submitted in late February 2009, LSO provided 36 comments to the laboratory for resolution in June, and the responses were submitted back to LSO in August. Continued implementation of the laboratory's process improvement for safety basis documents should help achieve better review and approval cycle times. In addition, LSO recently initiated a similar effort to identify areas for improvement on the federal side of the review and approval process.

Radiography Facility: During an engineering design review for a system proposed for installation in one of the other nuclear facilities, questions regarding industrial hygiene and pressure safety were raised by laboratory personnel. An older version of a similar system exists in the Radiography Facility and the need to assess the extent of condition was identified. The questions, and the actions taken in response, were appropriate.

Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management: Last week, primary decontamination activities were completed and the room involved in the December 2008 glovebox incident was released from restricted access. The first low level radioactive liquid waste processing (filtration and evaporation) campaign utilizing the revised work control process was also completed without incident. A senior supervisory watch was utilized for the campaign.

LSO and the laboratory are exploring the potential to downgrade the Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility from hazard category 3 to radiological status in the near future. Formal analysis of future mission requirements and the capacity of the other RHWM nuclear facility structures is ongoing. In parallel, efforts continue on the revised hazards analysis table as part of the safety basis annual update (see weekly report dated November 13, 2009).

Emergency Management: Required annual orientation tours for the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) have been completed by one company each for the Plutonium Facility and the balance of the Superblock nuclear facilities. After continued difficulty with emergency deployments during scheduled tours (see weekly report dated December 18, 2009), ACFD decided to take the touring company out of service for non-laboratory responses in an effort to minimize disruptions. Facility Safety Office personnel are also exploring options including off-shift and weekend tours.