

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 5, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending March 5, 2010

Staff members Anderson, Arnold, MacSleyne, Verhaagen, and outside expert Volgenau were at the laboratory this week to assess activity level work planning and control. The assessment was based on the content in the National Nuclear Security Administration document entitled, *Activity Level Work Planning and Control Processes—Attributes, Best Practices, and Guidance for Effective Incorporation of Integrated Safety Management and Quality Assurance*.

Emergency Management: On March 2, 2010, the laboratory responded to a Livermore Site Office (LSO) request dated February 18, 2010 for information and the path forward on several outstanding topics resulting from the videoconference held with the Board's staff on November 12, 2009. In particular, LSO requested a review of the job task analysis in place for the Alameda County Fire Department personnel who have responsibilities to respond to the unique hazards of the nuclear facilities, a determination of the adequacy of the training programs and walkthroughs to meet these job tasks, and implementation tools and processes for revised training and walkthroughs to resolve identified gaps, as appropriate. The laboratory's response committed to complete the review of the job task analysis by April 5, 2010. LSO's letter also requested a consolidated listing of current fire fighter training requirements for both resident and non-resident personnel that have responsibilities to respond to the laboratory, a schedule for the annual required walkthroughs of each of the nuclear facilities for fiscal year 2010, and a crosswalk of the current Alameda County Fire Department and laboratory procedures with previous laboratory fire department policies and procedures. The laboratory provided this information and LSO is currently reviewing it.

Tritium Facility: On March 5, 2010, the laboratory submitted a Justification for Continued Operations (JCO) to LSO. The JCO was developed in response to safety basis concerns raised by LSO (see weekly report dated January 1, 2010) and the Board letter dated January 27, 2010. The JCO noted a potential lack of completeness in evaluating some existing hazards and identified the possibility that select hazard events may carry a higher unmitigated risk to facility workers than described in the current safety basis (consequences to both the public and co-located workers were recognized as negligible). As a result, the laboratory proposed four compensatory measures summarized as follows: (1) daily flow and data continuity checks for tritium monitors at their remote readout location, (2) weekly flow and direct response checks for tritium monitors, (3) verification prior to processing that the display is on and the calibration sticker is current, and (4) implementation of deliberate operations for the Tritium Process Station, Tritium Science Station, grinder startup, and legacy material activities. The JCO's compensatory measures are proposed to remain in effect while a safety basis amendment that re-evaluates hazards and derives appropriate controls is submitted, reviewed, approved, and implemented. This amendment is scheduled to be submitted by June 30, 2010 (see weekly report dated February 26, 2010). The schedule for the other steps is in development.