

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 18, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: B.P. Broderick and R.T. Davis
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending June 18, 2010

Plutonium Facility: LANL recently completed overpacking all ^{238}Pu -bearing Russian Product Containers (RPCs) into safety class Fuel Storage Outer (FSO) containers. In response to a Board letter dated April 7, 2009, NNSA committed to complete the RPC overpacking effort by the end of June 2010. Over the next few weeks, LANL will complete radiography of the FSO container welds to verify adequacy. In addition, LANL is completing the FSO testing and qualification documentation for compliance with DOE M 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging Manual*.

This week, LANL also requested a revision to the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) associated with the analysis and stabilization of miscellaneous vault water bath containers, which includes the RPC containers mentioned above and other miscellaneous ^{238}Pu -bearing containers. The revision addresses a RPC container that was identified in the vault water bath that had not been included in previous internal pressure calculations. The original JCO was submitted in May 2009 and since that time the majority of the non-safety class containers have been dispositioned by overpacking, repackaging or ensuring the containers are vented (inside glovebox lines). The JCO, which expires February 1, 2011, addresses the movement, handling, non-destructive assay, radiography, container opening and other incidental activities for non-safety class ^{238}Pu -bearing containers. The JCO also covers these activities for new containers receipts provided the approved internal pressure calculation indicates the containers have a usable lifetime that exceeds the JCO expiration.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building: LANL has now completed packaging approximately 40 grams of non-dispersible ^{244}Cm into appropriate containers that will be shipped to Area G to await ultimate disposition. Removal of this material represents a significant reduction in material-at-risk located at the CMR facility. Facility personnel also continue actions to restart the alpha box located in the Wing 9 hot cells for repackaging six dispersible ^{233}U and ^{237}Np items that are located in the floor wells. Facility preparation and readiness actions to use the alpha box are expected to be complete within the next two months to allow the repackaging campaign to be done by the end of September.

Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF): WETF personnel continued actions this week to close pre-start findings and develop corrective action plans for post-start findings associated with the contractor Operational Readiness Review (ORR). The NNSA ORR is scheduled to begin on Monday.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TRUWF) Project: This week, the site office provided comments to LANL on the TRUWF preliminary hazard analysis and the conceptual safety design report. The site office plans to issue a conceptual safety validation report in the near future. The Technical Independent Project Review for this project is scheduled for mid-July.