

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending July 9, 2010

Hardened Engineering Test Building: This week, intrinsic radiation measurements involving plutonium oxide were successfully performed in the facility. A safety basis amendment was developed, approved, and implemented to support this programmatic activity (see weekly report dated March 12, 2010). Programmatic personnel encountered some difficulties preparing the samples in accordance with the required packaging configuration (bolt can inside of a conflat container). While alternatives were briefly explored, Plutonium Facility personnel were ultimately able to achieve the approved configuration; however, this experience revealed opportunities to improve scheduling, coordination, and scoping safety basis controls.

Work Planning and Control: Last month, the Laboratory completed a revision to the *Superblock Work Control Manual* dated December 2008. The manual governs all work in the Superblock and defines the work permit process. Ongoing programmatic work is generally performed under Operational Safety Plans, which are defined by a separate guide. In addition to minor editorial improvements and adjustments to nomenclature, notable changes from the previous version, include the following:

- The revision captures a requirement, which had been implemented on an interim basis through a memorandum, to ensure that work packages are closed within three months following activity completion or work permit expiration. Packages not closed are to be entered in the Issues Tracking System and formally tracked to closure. Actions such as updating drawings, calculations, postings, and other configuration management and quality assurance functions are included in work package closure.
- The Facility Readiness Review was renamed the Facility Acceptance Process. The change was made for clarification, as the process covers changes that are determined not to be within the scope of Department of Energy Order 425.1C, *Startup and Restart of Nuclear Facilities*. The details describing the conduct of the Facility Acceptance Process were not included in the manual.
- A note was added to Section 6.0 Emergency Work Activities stating that the standard work permit form may be used. The definition and applicability of this process did not change.
- The appendices listing Category A and B work activities for each facility were updated and clarified.
- Detailed instructions for completing the work permit form were added to the appendix.

A more significant change to the Work Control Manual is expected later this year. Scope for that revision includes the unification of the Superblock and Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management work control practices, as well as the deployment of a web-based interactive work permitting process. The next revision could also serve as an opportunity to incorporate improvements taken in response to the Board letter dated June 14, 2010.