

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 30, 2011

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending December 30, 2011

Except for limited operations on Wednesday, the laboratory was closed this week for the winter holidays.

**Waste Storage Facilities:** On December 16, 2011, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) approved a revised review plan for the 2011 annual update to the safety basis. The plan anticipates receipt of the revised safety basis from the contractor on February 28, 2012. Key milestones include transmittal of consolidated review comments to the contractor by April 9, 2012 and an overall issuance a safety evaluation report by June 29, 2012. Last week, consistent with the resubmission schedule (see weekly report dated September 23, 2011), the contractor submitted draft sample accident analysis calculations, including the development of statistical material-at-risk values and consequence analyses for crashes of an indoor vehicle and aircraft. The safety basis update and supporting calculations are intended to be consistent with Department of Energy Standard 5506-2007, *Preparation of Safety Basis Documents for Transuranic Waste Facilities*.

**Heavy Element Facility:** In a letter to National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Headquarters dated December 21, 2011, LSO noted emerging material condition concerns regarding the roof and ventilation system for Building 251 (B251) that pose potential risk of an imminent release to the environment. Rather than invest resources to replace these systems for a dormant building, LSO requested NNSA approval to transfer B251 to the Office of Environmental Management and further requested the resources to plan and execute the decontamination and decommissioning of the facility.

Historically, B251 was a Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility where research activities involving heavy actinide elements were performed. In 2005, B251 was downgraded to a Radiological Facility following removal of most of the nuclear material inventory. A risk reduction project removed most of the gloveboxes, exhaust ducting, and other contaminated equipment resulting in a dormant facility awaiting final decontamination and decommissioning.