

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending September 28, 2012

Performance Execution Plan (PEP): On September 11, 2012, LASO and LANL jointly approved the Fiscal Year 2013 Strategic PEP for management and operation of LANL. Consistent with direction from NNSA HQ, this new PEP is radically different than previous years' plans in that it is shorter, more subjective, and contains considerably less detail and specificity. Objective performance measures have been replaced with both critical factors and applicable site specific outcomes that will be assessed in the aggregate to establish performance ratings for each objective.

The LANL strategic PEP contains five performance objectives supported by 12 site specific outcomes, some of which are identical to outcomes in other NNSA site PEPs. Some site specific outcomes unique to Los Alamos include: mature the NNSA Plutonium (Pu) Strategy and effectively implement funded FY 2013 elements; successfully execute Pu Oxide production efforts and achieve Surplus Fissile Materials program objectives; achieve program commitments negotiated under the January 2012 Framework Agreement including disposition of 1,800 m³ of Area G legacy waste; complete seismic/structural analyses, and any necessary facility upgrades, for the Plutonium facility in accordance with an NNSA list to be approved no later than the end of the first quarter; and demonstrate long-term site planning activities to enable a sustainable and viable National Laboratory. Of note, LANL must achieve a rating of "very good" or better in each performance area and experience no significant safety or security incidents during the performance period in order to earn the award term incentive.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF) Project: This week, NNSA conducted an Independent Project Review of the TWF Project to determine if requirements for critical decision-2, *Approve Performance Baseline*, have been met. The review focused on the following areas: technical; cost, schedule and risk; management and acquisition; environment, safety, health and quality assurance; and commissioning. The team concluded that the project has achieved 90 percent design as defined by NNSA guidance and LANL engineering standards; however, several comments and recommendations were identified that require project action prior to critical decision-2, including resolution of nuclear safety issues identified in the Board letter dated June 11, 2012. The TWF project is scheduled to submit a revised safety basis strategy and Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis to the site office for approval in early October. Currently, approval of critical decision-2 is planned for December.

Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF): In July, WETF personnel declared the Tritium Gas Handling System interlock inoperable and entered the appropriate safety basis limiting condition of operation. This interlock remains inoperable and the safety basis would have required the facility to enter cold standby for the affected area on September 30th. The site office approved a LANL request for a temporary safety basis change this week to eliminate the requirement to enter cold standby for the affected area. In August, the site office agreed that cold standby (versus warm standby) is not always the safest operational state and directed LANL to revise the safety basis to eliminate the cold standby mode. This revision is scheduled for submittal in October. WETF personnel continue facility restart activities to support resumption of programmatic work. Currently, contractor and federal readiness reviews are scheduled in December 2012 and January 2013, respectively.