

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending November 16, 2012

Livermore Site Office (LSO): Recently, LSO management acknowledged the need to develop additional subject matter expertise in the areas of quality assurance and safety basis. As a first step, LSO issued an internal expression of interest for 120 day assignments in each of these areas to foster potential permanent candidates. This week, management selected an individual for the quality assurance position and determined that the safety basis assignment was no longer necessary.

Emergency Management: On Monday, Tritium Facility personnel conducted a fire drill. The updated safety basis, which is expected to be implemented next month, includes a Specific Administrative Control (SAC) covering tritium fire controls. The SAC specifies: (1) in the event of a large fire, personnel shall secure tritium operations if it is safe to do so and exit the room and (2) training and an annual fire drill to rehearse response. The drill and a training session the prior week were intended to meet the second element and were observed by an Implementation Verification Review (IVR) team member. LSO personnel were unable to observe, as Monday was a federal holiday.

Management: On November 15, 2012, LSO issued the Site Integrated Assessment Plan, which provides a consolidated list of planned assessments amongst the contractor, LSO, and other Department of Energy oversight entities. Selected assessments of interest include the following:

- LSO functional area reviews covering elements of conduct of operations, safety system oversight, emergency management, nuclear training and qualification, criticality safety, safety basis, startup, weapons response, and nuclear explosives safety
- Joint Functional Area Manager/Line Management reviews for Nuclear Conduct of Operations, Maintenance, Configuration Management, and Nuclear Training, which will be shadowed by LSO
- A management self-assessment of safety basis procedure implementation and a parent company Functional Management Review of Safety Basis Development, planned partially in response to the Board's letter dated August 30, 2012

Safety Basis: Last month, LSO approved the laboratory contractor's request to change the minimum staffing specified in Technical Safety Requirements for each of the nuclear facilities (see weekly report dated September 7, 2012). This change eliminated the requirement to have an off-shift health and safety technician present on site when programmatic work was not planned. In the approval letter, LSO noted that the contractor failed to submit the documentation of the 14 key criteria for evaluating safety basis amendments, as required by institutional procedures. As a result, LSO conducted their own review of alarms, recipients of the alarms, and potential impacts of a lengthened response to postulated abnormal events by a health and safety technician on "call back" and concluded the impacts were acceptable. The contractor completed an IVR for the changes in each facility and determined the changes were adequately implemented.