

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 1, 2013

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** S. A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending March 1, 2013

**Emergency Preparedness:** On Tuesday, LANL conducted a series of four tabletop emergency exercises at the emergency operations center to evaluate and preplan site actions in response to a significant seismic event at Los Alamos (see 1/11/13 weekly). Participation from LANL and local, state, and federal agencies included approximately 60 personnel. These personnel represented senior field office and LANL management, Los Alamos Fire and Police Departments, local Tribal Organizations, New Mexico National Guard, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Los Alamos Medical Center, and others.

The four scenarios presented to the participants included a collapse of the Plutonium Facility following an earthquake, and a progression of three scenarios following a significant earthquake that included the collapse of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, followed by the collapse of the WCCR Repacking Facility and finally the collapse of the Plutonium Facility. After a description of the scenario and pertinent data, the participants were divided into three groups including: strategic; response; and public information. Each group then developed solutions to three focus areas that included: rescue; communication/notification; and transportation/evacuation. Following a tabletop evaluation of options and challenges in each focus area, the groups gathered to present their solutions and options.

Conduct of this tabletop exercise highlights the challenges that LANL and the surrounding area would face during a significant seismic event because of the isolation and limited avenues for evacuation. These discussions and lessons learned will be captured in an after action report that will be used to improve procedures and processes for responding to a significant seismic event.

**Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF):** This week, the field office approved the Safety Design Strategy (SDS) for the TWF project that was recently submitted by LANL (see last week's report). LANL is scheduled to submit a Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis for the project in March that is consistent with the SDS.

**Federal Oversight:** The facility representatives (FR) for the field office continue to provide important federal oversight at LANL facilities. This week, FRs at both the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF) and Area G identified safety issues. At WETF, the field office FR identified a maintenance work package that had conflicting information relative to the need to install a lock-out/tag-out (LOTO) for completion of the maintenance work activity. Although the LANL subject matter expert had reviewed the activity and concluded the LOTO was not required, the work instruction was not revised to remove this requirement. Instead, an email stating that the LOTO was not needed was attached to the work package.

At Area G, the field office FR identified that an operations center operator had not completed all required training and was not qualified to stand watch. This issue was identified on the backshift and resulted in a TSR violation due to failure to meet the safety basis minimum staffing requirements. Field office oversight at Area G is very important right now as LANL potentially increases the pace of operations to meet commitments for disposition of transuranic waste as part of the 3706 campaign.