

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: S. A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending April 12, 2013

The field office announced that Geoff Beausoleil will be assigned as the acting Field Office Manager for 60 days while a permanent manager is being identified. Mr. Beausoleil is currently the Sandia Field Office Manager and was previously the Deputy Manager at the Pantex Site Office.

Plutonium Facility – Seismic Safety: This week, the field office provided LANL with the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the safety basis addendum associated with facility seismic performance (see 3/22/13 site rep weekly). The SER was approved by the NNSA Deputy Associate Administrator for Infrastructure and Operations. The field office transmittal letter includes direction for the contractor to “prudently accelerate disposal and robust packaging of excess material-at-risk.” LANL is directed to provide a plan within 30 days on FY13 objectives for this acceleration and the impact on offsite dose calculations. Other compensatory measures, including material-at-risk limits and qualification of a new robust container, are scheduled to be complete within 30 days. NNSA also continues to pursue the alternate static nonlinear analysis.

Criticality Safety: LANL recently published the results of its Criticality Safety Officer (CSO) Program Assessment at Technical Area-55, the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, and Area G. Numerous concerns in the program were self-identified that will be resolved to help strengthen the CSO Program and ultimately the LANL Nuclear Criticality Safety Program. The identified deficiencies included: insufficient CSO staffing; no established training and qualification programs; limited definition of CSO duties and responsibilities; and insufficient CSO operational oversight and field support. LANL is developing corrective actions to address these deficiencies. LANL also continues to pursue broader corrective actions consistent with the criticality safety corrective action plan.

Area G – Dome 375 Box Repackaging Line: This week, LANL completed the Management Self Assessment for the box repackaging line in the Dome 375 Permacon (see last week’s report). LANL is expecting to move on to its next phase of startup activities with a contractor readiness assessment beginning on April 22, 2013.

Safety Basis: On Tuesday, LANL declared a site-wide Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) for nuclear facilities because of increased airport traffic at the Los Alamos County Airport. As part of the safety basis, LANL nuclear facilities evaluate the frequency of aircraft crash in accordance with DOE-STD-3014. A recent increase in commercial flights at the airport prompted LANL to review the airport traffic data that is part of the input information for the DOE standard evaluation. In addition to the new commercial flights, review of airport logs indicates an increase in other flight traffic. Based on this information, LANL declared the PISA and will complete an unreviewed safety question for each nuclear facility. Currently, no compensatory measures have been identified. Initial evaluation indicates that the RANT shipping facility, which previously had an aircraft crash probability just below the cutoff frequency, may now require inclusion of an aircraft crash scenario and associated controls in the safety basis. LANL also plans to evaluate this information for the Transuranic Waste Facility Project.