

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: S.A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending July 5, 2013

Plutonium Facility – Criticality Safety: Based on direction from the Laboratory Director, fissile material operations at the Plutonium Facility remain paused this week. On Monday, the Associate Director for Plutonium Science and Manufacturing (ADPSM) provided the following guidance and clarifications to Plutonium Facility programmatic personnel:

- All programmatic operations that involve nuclear materials are paused until further notice.
- Material movement and process operations required to place nuclear materials in a safe and stable configuration are allowed but require specific approval from the Principal Associate Director for Weapons Programs.
- Facility support activities (e.g. surveillances, glove changes, filter changes, and removal of low-level waste) are permitted but must be approved by the TA-55 Facility Operations Director (FOD).
- Laboratory construction, reconfiguration, and cleanout activities with no potential to impact the configuration of nuclear materials are allowed with the approval of the TA-55 FOD.
- Laboratory construction, reconfiguration, and cleanout activities with the potential to impact the configuration of nuclear materials are paused; however, release of individual activities with a specific duration may be approved based on rigorous evaluation and justification that includes approval by the Laboratory Director.
- Walkdowns of Plutonium Facility laboratories and processes to evaluate procedures and criticality related controls are permitted provided they can be performed without affecting the safe and stable configuration of nuclear materials.
- Tours of the facility and individual laboratories are permitted.

The memorandum notes that all requests to resume normal operations must be approved by the Laboratory Director and that ADPSM is developing a formal process to obtain this approval.

Area G – 3706 Campaign: Area G personnel recently announced that they successfully completed removal of above ground, non-cemented transuranic (TRU) waste from Area G to meet the FY 2013 3rd quarter goals of the 3706 campaign. This keeps the project on pace to meet commitments in the framework agreement with the state to remove 3706 m³ of above ground, non-cemented TRU waste from Area G by June 30, 2014.

Chemistry and Metallurgical Research (CMR) Facility – Confinement Vessel Disposition (CVD): CMR personnel continue startup activities in CMR Wing 9 to support retrieval and disposition of nuclear materials contained in nine large confinement vessels currently stored at TA-55. LANL submitted proposed resolution of comments generated during an ancillary review of the CVD project safety basis (see 6/14/13 weekly) to the field office for review and approval. This resolution includes a CMR Documented Safety Analysis/Technical Safety Requirement page change to address field office concerns. Following field office approval of the page change and successful completion of an implementation verification review, the project will proceed with the Federal Operational Readiness Review, which is currently scheduled to commence in August 2013.