

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: S.A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending August 23, 2013

This week, DNFSB Chairman Peter Winokur, Vice Chairman Jessie Roberson, Member John Mansfield, and Member Sean Sullivan were onsite along with staff members David Jonas, Steven Stokes, and John Pasko to meet with NNSA field office and LANL personnel. The Board had detailed discussions with site personnel on the Plutonium Facility (including the status of the programmatic pause, criticality safety improvements, and seismic safety), the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, Transuranic Waste Operations, the Transuranic Waste Facility Project, the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility, and emergency preparedness. The Board toured the Plutonium Facility and the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility.

Nuclear Startup and Readiness Program: This week, the field office transmitted a report of its assessment of the LANL Nuclear Startup and Readiness Program. The assessment was conducted from July 9 – 18, 2013, and evaluated LANL's program against DOE Order 425.1D, *Verification of Readiness to Start Up or Restart Nuclear Facilities*. The assessment team concluded that the LANL Nuclear Startup and Readiness Program is adequately implemented, effective, and sustained. The team identified seventeen observations and the following three findings: 1) the LANL readiness procedure does not require documentation of team member training, experience, qualification, independence, or availability (this is a repeat of a previous finding that was not addressed); 2) lack of a 1 year notification for some startup/restart activities as required by DOE Order 425.1D; and 3) late submittal of a Plan of Action for a startup activity.

Plutonium Facility – Safety Basis: The field office approved a LANL request to extend the due date for re-submittal of the annual revision to the Technical Area-55 Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs). The revision was initially submitted in September 2012, but the field office directed LANL to revise the DSA and TSRs to incorporate a number of field office generated comments by August 13, 2013 (see 5/17/13 weekly). The request for extension cited the complexity of the necessary changes as well as a number of other issues being addressed by senior safety basis analysts as factors in the delay of the re-submittal.

The Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis that was declared by Plutonium Facility management for an inadequate surveillance of the facility Instrument Air System (see 8/9/13 weekly) has been declared an Unreviewed Safety Question. LANL will submit an Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation for this issue.

Emergency Exercise: On Thursday, LANL conducted an evaluated emergency exercise that simulated a significant release of hydrochloric acid and personnel injuries at the Sanitary Effluent Reclamation Facility due to a malevolent act. The exercise included participation from federal, state, and county representatives. LANL will complete an after action report that evaluates performance and identifies opportunities for improvement.

Transuranic Waste Operations: As part of the 3706 campaign, LANL completed packaging a number of corrugated metal boxes (CMBs) into ten drum overpacks for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The remaining CMBs require remediation prior to disposition.