

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 1, 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** S.A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaue  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending August 1, 2014

**Emergency Preparedness:** LANL hosted its annual HAZMAT Challenge this week with 13 teams participating, including five from local entities that LANL may call upon for aid in the event of an emergency. All eight of this year's scenarios were based on a postulated seismic event.

**Plutonium Facility–Criticality Safety:** On Thursday, the field office responded to LANL's summary of resumption status and proposed readiness activities (see 7/18/14 weekly). The field office concurred with the list of activities that LANL considered in extended shutdown and require a formal readiness assessment for restart, but directed that readiness activities be performed for the activities that LANL considered to not be in extended shutdown. Using LANL's groupings of activities, 14 are actively operating, 12 will require federal readiness assessments, and four will require contractor readiness assessments.

On Tuesday, Plutonium Facility management reported that personnel have replaced 38 of 58 legacy wooden housekeeping filters with new metal versions, including 19 with new "rain caps" to prevent intrusion of water. This work continues on schedule and significantly improves the safety posture of the affected gloveboxes.

**Plutonium Facility–Conduct of Operations:** In response to issues identified by NNSA personnel (see 7/18/14 weekly), Plutonium Facility management directed that all program managers are to perform at least two management observations on the work floor each week. One observation is to focus on work within the workgroup and the other on an outside workgroup.

**Confinement Vessel Disposition (CVD) Project:** Late last week, CVD personnel paused work during an evolution to sample and vent the atmosphere within the sphere when they unexpectedly found the sphere to be under vacuum. Procedure changes are underway.

**Area G–Safety Basis:** On Wednesday, the field office approved the Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) for the new information concerning the nitrate salt waste (see 5/16/2014 weekly). However, the field office disapproved LANL's revision of the ESS that provided for changing out the vent plugs in the Standard Waste Boxes. The ESS expires within one year.

Also on Wednesday, the field office approved LANL's request to delay submittal of the revised safety basis to February 20, 2015, from August 1, 2014. The safety basis revision will address field office directed actions (see 8/2/2013 weekly), including elevating aspects of safety management programs to Specific Administrative Controls and re-evaluating the selection of credited controls using the hierarchy of controls.

**RANT Shipping Facility:** On Tuesday, LANL submitted a letter to the field office indicating that they have determined a TRUPACT III loading function is no longer required. LANL also indicated that no changes were required to institutional procedures to ensure major modification determinations were performed early in the design process and readily visible to federal oversight (see 12/13/2013 weekly).