

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 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 April 5, 2013

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building – Confinement Vessel Disposition

(CVD) Project: LANL completed the Management Self Assessment (MSA) for the CVD project startup this week (see 3/15/13 weekly). The MSA team identified eight pre-start findings, most of which were related to training inadequacies, integrated work document and procedural compliance deficiencies, and non-conservative radiological work practices. The MSA team concluded that CVD operations adequately demonstrated readiness for the planned Contractor Operational Readiness Review once all pre-start findings have been resolved and the 14 post-start findings have approved corrective action plans. The Contractor Operational Readiness Review is scheduled to begin the week of April 29, 2013 with a subsequent NNSA Operational Readiness Review scheduled to begin in June 2013.

Area G – Dome 375 Box Repackaging Line: LANL commenced an MSA for the box repackaging line in Dome 375 this week. Within Dome 375 there is a large Permacon containment enclosure measuring 48 feet in width and 110 feet in length. This containment enclosure, with HEPA-filtered ventilation and automatic fire suppression, will be used to sort, segregate, and size reduce (SSSR) transuranic waste for repackaging and shipment to offsite disposal facilities.

The startup of the SSSR activity in Dome 375 is crucial to meeting commitments of the 3706 campaign as it will allow LANL to process the largest fiberglass reinforced plywood waste boxes in Area G, some of which are nearly 40 feet in length. Following successful completion of the MSA, and follow-on Contractor and Federal Readiness Assessments, boxes containing up to Hazard Category (HC)-2 quantities of transuranic waste will be processed within this facility. Startup of HC-2 activities are currently planned for August 2013.

Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF): LANL recently returned WETF to operations mode (previously in warm standby mode) in accordance with the Technical Safety Requirements. Certain gloveboxes that did not pass leak testing remain in warm standby. With this mode change, WETF personnel are moving forward on plans to overpack AL-M1 tritium containers (including the leaking AL-M1 containers noted in the 2/15/13 site rep report) into Flanged Tritium Waste Containers for disposition at Area G. Because of the length of time since previous tritium gas handling operations, LANL is pursuing readiness reviews to support restart of tritium transfer, function test, and processing activities. The MSA to support these activities is scheduled to begin this month followed by Contractor and Federal Readiness Assessments in May 2013 and June 2013, respectively.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF): The field office approved extending the schedule for submittal of the Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis for the TWF Project this week from March 2013 to July 2013. TWF project personnel plan to use this time to implement changes in the safety basis approach that are detailed in the safety design strategy approved by the field office earlier this year (see 2/22/13 site rep report). The project also recently received approval of Critical Decision-2, *Performance Baseline*.