

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 14, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: S.A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaue
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending October 14, 2016

DNFSB Staff Activity: P.J. Foster observed discussions between LANL and the NNSA Field Office on the final resolution of comments regarding the safety basis for the Transuranic Waste Facility.

Emergency Management: Subsequent to receiving comments from the NNSA Field Office, LANL management rescinded the after action report for the full-scale exercise (see 10/7/16 weekly). Separately, the NNSA Field Office and LANL management are negotiating implementation of DOE Order 151.1D, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*. This revision reflects many of the improvements made under the Board's Recommendation 2014-1, *Emergency Preparedness and Response*.

Inappropriately Remediated Nitrate Salts (RNS)–Safety Basis: On Friday, the EM Field Office transmitted to LANL the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) approving the safety basis documents needed to support final treatment of the RNS waste into an acceptable waste form. The documents encompass activities at Area G, onsite transportation, and the Waste Characterization, Reduction, and Repackaging Facility. The SER includes five conditions of approval and four directed changes associated with establishing temporary road closures during transfer operations, several corrections to the documents, and the need to implement revision 6.1 of the Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) concerning the safe storage of the RNS waste. The NNSA Field Office continues to review revision 6.1 of the ESS which is required to support treatment as it covers denesting and pressure relief device installation on the 8 pipe overpacks containing RNS waste, as well as finalizes the wildland fire analysis and associated controls.

Plutonium Facility–Nuclear Material Management: Material management personnel recently realized progress with respect to implementing some of the opportunities identified in DNFSB/Tech-39. In response to a recent timely order, programmatic operations personnel have been documenting the type of outer container in the LANMAS material accountability system for all material-at-risk (MAR) stored outside of gloveboxes on the first floor of the facility (i.e., floor locations and safes). As of this past Tuesday, they have identified all but 5 of the 247 previous unspecified containers. As a result of this information and ongoing repackaging efforts, material management personnel estimate a nearly 21 percent relative reduction in MAR against the fiscal year 2016 baseline after accounting for damage ratios for certified containers. Material management personnel are also monitoring risk reduction using the methodology specified in DOE Manual 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*, and currently estimate a nearly 55 percent relative reduction in risk against the fiscal year 2016 baseline.

Safety Basis: DOE Standard 3009-2014, *Preparation of Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analyses*, was issued in November 2014. The NNSA Field Office and LANL management incorporated this standard into the contract as part of modification 359, which was jointly approved on August 11, 2016.