

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 19, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

COPIES: Board Members

FROM: D. Thompson
Senior Technical Specialist

SUBJECT: Supplementary Report on LANL Emergency Response Exercise Porcupine

1. Purpose: This report supplements the May 4, 1994, memorandum evaluating the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) Emergency Response Exercise Porcupine, and documents the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Staff observations concerning the formal Department of Energy (DOE) Evaluation of the same exercise.
2. Summary: DOE's Evaluation of Emergency Response Exercise "Porcupine", Los Alamos National Laboratory, March 23, 1994, was received by the DNFSB on May 17, 1994.

The DOE report is a thorough, professional, and candid review of the Exercise against the stated objectives, in accordance with evaluation criteria set forth in the Department's Emergency Management Guide dated December 11, 1991. It substantiates the oral observations provided by the Lead Evaluator at his March 24, 1994, debrief at the Albuquerque Operations Office.

The significant findings of the DOE evaluators parallel very closely those of the DNFSB Staff evaluators. The larger number of DOE evaluators (28 vis-a-vis 6) permitted DOE to examine the response of the participants in substantially greater detail than did the DNFSB team. It is the view of the DNFSB Staff evaluators that the parallelism in those areas both teams evaluated can reasonably be extended to those areas evaluated by the DOE team that DNFSB Staff evaluators did not observe (e.g., the Occupational Health Department).

3. Background: DNFSB Staff evaluators reported the results of their monitoring of Exercise orcupine in a May 4, 1994, memorandum to the Technical Director, including their evaluation of DOE's development, conduct and control of the exercise. DNFSB Staff evaluators also provided their initial assessment of the adequacy of DOE's own evaluation of the exercise, noting that DOE's report was originally anticipated to be released by the third week in April. At the time the trip report was written, the DNFSB Staff proposed withholding release of its report until DOE documented its review.

Section IIB of DOE's Emergency Exercise Evaluation Criteria calls for evaluator findings to be categorized as "Deficiencies", defined as failures to meet the requirements of

applicable DOE Orders or failures to meet evaluation criteria leading to inadequate demonstration of the standard; "Weaknesses", defined as degradations of the demonstration called for in the exercise objectives; or "Improvement Items", defined as subjects for which improvements appear to be warranted. Corrective actions for deficiencies and Weaknesses must be documented and tracked to closure, whereas Items for Improvement do not require formal tracking and closure documentation.

4. Discussion/Observations: DOE evaluators of Exercise Porcupine identified 63 negative findings (16 Deficiencies, 23 Weaknesses and 24 Items for Improvement). They also identified 23 areas in which they felt some commendatory comment was warranted. Each finding was identified by a unique number (e.g. LANL-094-005), and was correlated to the applicable Exercise Objective(s) and pertinent Doe Order requirements. The DNFSB Staff evaluators believe that DOE has assigned appropriate priorities to needed corrective actions.
5. Additional Future Staff Actions: DNFSB Staff will track and monitor corrective actions for each of the deficiencies and weaknesses identified in the DOE evaluation.