DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Public Hearing on Los Alamos National Laboratory

Session 1: Nuclear Safety at Area G

Santa Fe, New Mexico November 16, 2022







The Secretary of Energy Washington, DC 20585

September 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR FRANK G. KLOTZ

ADMINSTRATOR

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

MARK WHITNEY

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

FROM:

ERNEST J. MONIZ

SUBJECT:

Acquisition and Oversight Strategy for Legacy Environmental

Cleanup Work at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Drum of inappropriately remediated nitrate salt waste that reacted in the underground of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Memo creating the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office.



Wildland fire preparations.







Triad's RANT Shipping Facility.



Mobile Loading Unit at Area G.



Glovebag operations.



Drill and drain operations.





N3B isolated certain transuranic waste containers in response to DNFSB/TECH-46.





N3B and EM-LA staff are essential to safe nuclear operations.



Management Challenges at the Department of Energy's Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (Paraphrased)

- 1. The field office has not ensured that adequate execution of the overall process for potentially inadequate safety analyses is in accordance with federal regulations and applicable directives.
- 2. There is no demonstrated ownership of the field office safety basis documents.
- 3. The field office does not have approved safety basis procedures including adequately defined roles and responsibilities for safety basis reviews and approvals.
- 4. The field office's documented oversight of safety basis control suite implementation and related areas of nuclear safety is less than adequate.

CNS Independent Assessment of Nuclear Safety Oversight Interim Report - Phase 1



October 2020



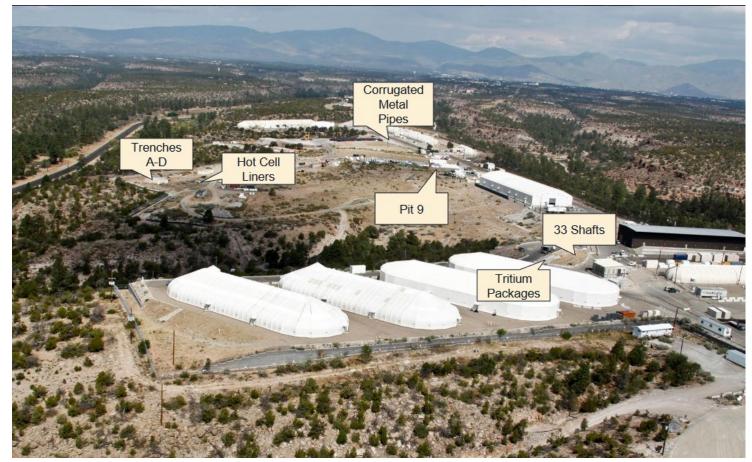
January 2020 – Flammable gas sampling paused

- Multiple N3B safety analysis submittals
- Lengthy EM federal review cycles

August 2021 – Flammable gas sampling resumed



Headspace gas sampling activity.



Buried waste locations at Area G.





Trenches A-D (top) and Pit 9 (bottom).