

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 14, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending May 14, 2010

R. Tontodonato was at the laboratory this week augmenting the Site Representative office.

Livermore Site Office (LSO): One of the tools used by LSO to drive improvements at the laboratory is the Periodic Issues Report (PIR). On April 21, 2010, LSO issued a PIR containing three weaknesses associated with the nuclear facilities. Weaknesses represent the second level of concern and do not require a formal corrective action plan, but are expected to be tracked to closure by the Laboratory. One weakness noted that temperature was not appropriately factored into the rate-of-rise surveillance procedure for gloveboxes in the Tritium Facility. A second weakness observed inconsistent adherence to requirements for use of logbooks in the Plutonium Facility, which had previously been identified as a weakness. The third weakness observed a number of issues associated with the non-routine work control process utilized to disposition the bulging drum of tritiated mop water (see weekly report dated March 19, 2010). Specifically, the weakness discussed the applicability and format of the Emergency/ Non-Routine Work Permit process, incomplete documentation and subject matter expert review of changes made to equipment and planned conduct, and incomplete documentation of hazards and controls.

Feedback and Improvement: On May 14, 2010, the Nuclear Materials Technology Program held a periodic safety and security briefing. As a correction to the weekly report dated January 22, 2010, attendance is not required for Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management personnel; however, attendance is suggested and management is considering requiring it in the future. Briefing topics included awards, conduct of operations, process improvements, barriers to a learning organization, changes to Superblock access, recent occurrence and facility event reports, facility updates, radiological protection, and new information technology.

Institutional Processes: On May 7, 2010, the Laboratory implemented the document categories that are applicable to the Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) process. LSO approved these document categories on April 23, 2010, as part of the corrective actions associated with the self-identified issues with the USQ process (see weekly report dated February 12, 2010). The approved document categories are as follows:

Within USQ

Facility management and operating procedures
Maintenance procedures
Programmatic management documents
Programmatic facility procedures

Partially within USQ

Environment, Safety, and Health manual documents
Subject matter expert documents
Materials management documents
Waste management documents

Outside USQ

LSO approved procedures
Weapons Complex and Integration instructions
Operator aids
Required postings
Data sheets/forms/logbooks
Waste processing plans
Vendor manuals
Drawings
Security operations orders
Plans not otherwise described
Standard industrial safety