

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: B. Broderick and R.T. Davis
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending August 8, 2008

Broderick was at the Sandia National Laboratory Tuesday and Wednesday attending the nuclear weapons complex lightning protection committee meetings.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building (CMR): Earlier this year, NNSA approved a revision to the CMR interim Technical Safety Requirements (iTSRs) to address discrepancies between the 1998 Basis for Interim Operations and the previous set of iTSRs. This week, LANL completed an Implementation Verification Review to confirm these controls are incorporated into appropriate facility procedures and that facility personnel are knowledgeable of the controls and requirements. The review team observed field performance of all of the revised or new surveillance requirements. Several pre-implementation findings were identified associated with procedural issues. The team concluded that upon resolution of the pre-implementation findings, CMR will be able to safely implement the revised iTSRs. LANL also continues to develop a Documented Safety Analysis to support post-2010 operations at CMR (site rep weeklies 5/23/08, 4/4/08).

Transuranic Waste Operations: On Friday, the NNSA Readiness Assessment (RA) team completed their review of remote drum venting operations at Area G and provided an outbrief to site office and contractor management. The following five pre-start issues were identified:

- hazards and controls have not been completely identified in some cases
- implementation of controls was inadequate in a few cases
- performance of dose estimates and As Low As Reasonably Achievable review have not been completed
- the startup plan is inconsistent concerning plans for drum processing
- procedures can't be performed as written in some cases

Three post-start issues were identified associated with hoisting and rigging, conduct of operations and training. The RA team recommends that the startup authority approve remote drum venting operations following closure of the pre-starts findings and development of corrective actions for the post-start findings (site rep weekly 8/1/08)

Plutonium Facility: Last week, LANL submitted a draft of the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs) to the site office for review. This draft is noted to be 99% complete and was provided to the site office for verification that the technical content of these documents meets NNSA expectations.

Federal Oversight: This week, LANL responded to a site office request to assure resources are adequate such that nuclear facilities can be operated in a safe, secure and environmentally-compliant manner. LANL has established an Infrastructure Validation Team to meet this objective. The team will evaluate and improve the LANL process for prioritization, planning, budgeting and execution. Deliverables from this team will include a definition of facility safe operating requirements, facility planning/execution guidance and a maintenance program improvement action plan. The validation team plans to complete their deliverables and reviews by mid-September.