

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 11, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: B.P. Broderick and R.T. Davis
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending June 11, 2010

Staff members Laake, Martin, and Von Holle were onsite this week to review implementation of DOE-NA-STD-3016, *Hazard Analysis Reports for Nuclear Explosive Operations*, at Los Alamos.

Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF): The Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR) to support resumption of programmatic gas transfer operations at WETF concluded this week. The final report is undergoing factual accuracy review by facility personnel, but preliminary findings were discussed at an outbrief on Friday. Roughly a dozen pre-start findings were reported at the outbrief, of which six were closed during the review. The follow-on federal ORR is currently targeted to begin the week of June 21st.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building: NNSA and LANL plan to continue performing mission-critical analytical chemistry operations in the CMR Building until the CMR Replacement (CMRR) Facility is constructed and commissioned. The recently issued Nuclear Posture Review targets transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility in 2021. The overarching strategy for operating CMR until CMRR is available is documented in the CMR Facility Consolidation and Risk Mitigation Program Execution Plan (CMR PEP). A central tenet of the operating strategy described in this document is to continuously reduce the amount of material at risk (MAR) associated with CMR operations over time. The CMR PEP establishes a series of activities designed to reduce the quantity of MAR required to perform key analytical chemistry operations in CMR. Relocating Pu-238 analytical chemistry operations and sample management operations to the Plutonium Facility are two important planned activities designed to enable MAR reduction at CMR over time. The implementation schedules for both of these relocation efforts have slipped significantly from their original completion dates meaning that the opportunities for CMR MAR reduction they will create will be delayed. Recently, LANL senior management has refocused attention on these relocation projects in recognition of the key role they play in supporting commitments to continuously reduce the MAR associated with CMR over time.

Transuranic Waste Operations: This week, facility management declared a TSR violation at the WCRR repackaging facility when a can of flammable liquid was discovered in WCRR while MAR was present in the facility. WCRR credits stringent combustible loading controls including a limiting condition of operation that prohibits the use or storage of flammable or combustible liquids or gases in the facility when MAR is present. A can of flammable spray paint was brought into the facility to support a painting evolution last weekend when the facility was in cold standby mode. The can of flammable spray paint was not removed when the painting work was completed and multiple surveillances credited to confirm that no flammable liquids or gases were present in the facility failed to identify and remove the can, as required, before the facility entered warm standby mode and introduced MAR.

Also this week, laboratory management authorized the startup of debris waste processing activities in Building 412 at Area G. These operations will use a glovebag inside a containment tent to remove WIPP-prohibited items from waste drums containing less than 0.52 ²³⁹Pu-equivalent Ci.