

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 19, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: S.A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: R.T. Davis and R.K. Verhaagen
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending July 19, 2013

Plutonium Facility – Seismic Safety: On Thursday, the field office forwarded the DNFSB letter dated July 17, 2013 on Plutonium Facility seismic safety to LANL for action. The field office memorandum requests LANL support for developing and communicating the schedule for the Plutonium Facility alternate seismic analysis.

Plutonium Facility – Criticality Safety: The Associate Director for Plutonium Science and Manufacturing provided the Laboratory Director with a corrective action plan for criticality safety issues identified at the Plutonium Facility that supersedes the previous action plan (see 6/14/13 weekly) and includes the following:

- Immediate Actions (within 30 days): 1) actions to maintain Plutonium Facility operability and compliance; 2) compensatory actions to ensure operations do not impact criticality controls; and 3) deliberate resumption of operations with minimum potential to challenge criticality controls.
- Short-Term Actions (by the end of September): 1) increase number of certified criticality safety analysts (CSAs); and 2) deliberate resumption of operations with low potential to challenge criticality controls and high programmatic impact.
- Mid-Term Actions (by the end of December): 1) further increase pool of CSAs; 2) deliberate resumption of operations with modest potential to challenge criticality controls and high programmatic impact (e.g. FY 13 deliverables); and 3) identify opportunities for continuous improvement of criticality safety.
- Long-Term Actions (extend beyond 2013): 1) deliberate resumption of additional operations; 2) continue comprehensive operational improvements; and 3) independent evaluation of criticality controls and conduct of operations.

Although the majority of the Plutonium Facility programmatic operations remain paused, the Laboratory Director approved limited resumption of heat source plutonium operations this week. Plutonium Facility personnel also continue to walk-down and evaluate facility operations that are paused. These focused efforts continue to identify criticality safety issues and improvements that are appropriately evaluated and dispositioned.

The field office forwarded the DNFSB letter dated July 15, 2013 on LANL criticality safety to the Laboratory Director for action. The field office memorandum requests LANL action by the end of July 2013 to support response to the Board letter, revise the resumption plan (i.e. the plan detailed above) to address identified issues, and provide a resource loaded schedule for resumption activities.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF) Project: This week, LANL submitted a revision to the Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis (PDSA) to the field office for approval. The TWF Project will provide enduring LANL capability to stage and characterize transuranic solid wastes and is needed to replace Area G transuranic waste capability. Based on resolution of comments with the field office, the project team revised the PDSA to include a dry pipe fire suppression system and larger vehicle barriers. An Independent Project Review is scheduled for December 2013 to support critical decision-3 in February 2014.