

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 13, 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** S.A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaué  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending March 13, 2015

**Plutonium Facility–Restart:** On Thursday, the contractor readiness assessment team commenced their review of the Balance of Machining activity. Balance of Machining includes the DMU35 milling machine, the Precitech machine, drill and press operations, and the robotic lathe. These operations span three different rooms and involve eight fissile material handlers and two first line supervisors. This represents considerably larger scope than the T Base 2 activity, though there is some overlap with personnel. The team observed performance demonstrations and a drill on Friday and plans a full slate of interviews through the weekend prior to additional activities next week.

**Plutonium Facility–Seismic Safety:** Last week, facility personnel completed the initial carbon fiber wrapping on the first roof girder. They initiated wrapping the second girder this week.

**Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis:** This week, LANL submitted several safety basis documents to the field office for approval:

- A request to extend the implementation declaration date for the 2014 safety basis from February 27 to August 7, 2015. They note the critical path to implementation is rework associated with the MAR Tracker inventory database following recent extent of condition issues. LANL also notes they will have an interim implementation declaration for use of additional types of fire-rated containers by April 27, 2015.
- A request to extend the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) associated with the Facility Control System by one year to March 31, 2016. Closure of this JCO requires approval of page changes to the safety basis. LANL notes that there are currently two other sets of page changes that have been submitted and suggest awaiting their approval and implementation prior to submitting the additional page change so it can be made to an updated and approved safety basis document.
- A request for a temporary modification to allow reuse of catch tube apparatus parts for surrogate shots on the Isotope Fuels Impact Tester. The safety basis currently specifies these parts as safety significant and prohibits reuse. LANL has an insufficient supply of replacements to support the demonstrations needed for upcoming readiness activities.

**Area G–Safety Basis:** On Monday, LANL submitted to the field office for approval the JCO concerning the receipt of newly generated transuranic waste containing higher combustible fractions than the 3 % fraction assumed in current analysis. Facility management declared a Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis for this issue on December 5, 2014. The JCO includes a new Specific Administrative Control to either (1) close the road in the vicinity of the transportation vehicle during waste receipts or (2) limit the radiological content of shipments to less than 85 Pu-239 equivalent curies (PE-Ci) Equivalent Combustible Waste for direct loaded containers or less than 350 PE-Ci Equivalent Combustible Waste for doublepacked containers.

On a related issue, the field office approved on Wednesday the fourth revision of the JCO associated with single drum pool fires. The approval codifies a new Specific Administrative Control to doublepack drums containing greater than 80 PE-Ci. The Board's staff first raised the questions that resulted in both of these JCOs during a review in late January 2014.