

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 29, 2024

TO: Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: E. Freeman, D. Gutowski, and J. Kemp, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending November 29, 2024

Plutonium Facility–Electrical Safety: Last Wednesday, workers were removing electrical wiring from a wall being prepared for demolition. The wiring from the part of the wall being demolished was properly de-energized; however, a worker removed a cover on a live lighting switch that was on another part of the wall not being demolished. Once the worker removed the cover, an arc occurred against the switch housing, tripping the circuit breaker. The worker was not injured, but operations staff paused work and administratively locked out the circuit. This Monday, personnel convened a fact finding to discuss the event and potential corrective actions. At the time of the fact finding, the circuit was still isolated, impacting room lighting fixtures.

Emergency Management: The emergency operations center (EOC) was restored to service after approximately two months of being out of service due to construction. Repairs were needed due to the central window being damaged three times in several years. A structural review found the damage was caused by expansion joints between the window glass and building structure not functioning as expected. The EOC function was transferred to the alternate EOC during this period. The EOC is now fully available for emergency operations.