

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 27, 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 December 27, 2024

Year in Review: A summary of the key developments of 2024.

- The DNFSB welcomed two new resident inspectors assigned to Los Alamos National Laboratory reaching the full staffing level of three.
- N3B completed, and DOE Environmental Management approved a new documented safety analysis (DSA) for Area G that is compliant with DOE Standard 3009-2014. Implementation started this year; however, DOE provided direction to N3B to redirect resources to another project on site.
- N3B finished excavating and cutting all 158 corrugated metal pipes from Area G this year. The CMP segments are contained in 792 standard waste boxes which N3B plans to characterize and prepare for shipment beginning in 2025.
- N3B implemented a new safety basis for Technical Area 21 building 0257 (21-257) and the associated industrial waste lines (IWLs). Previous characterization activities indicated the potential presence of Hazard Category 2 quantities of materials which necessitated a new safety basis. In 2024, the work at 21-257 and the IWLs has been limited to surveillance and maintenance activities.
- Triad submitted a new documented safety analysis for the Plutonium Facility. This safety basis submittal includes portions of the complete document to allow the NNSA Field Office to identify major deficiencies that could impact completion of the document. Triad personnel plan to submit a complete safety basis in 2025. This safety basis has been in progress for many years and includes an updated dispersion analysis, calculation of new leak path factors, and updated material at risk values based on current and expected mission needs.
- In May the site held the annual full-scale emergency preparedness exercise simulating a truck crash at Technical Area 60, a hazardous waste facility. The simulated crash caused several worker fatalities, injuries to many other workers, the breach of a chlorine cylinder, and damage to other waste containers in the building. Headquarters personnel from NNSA's Office of Emergency Preparedness and the DOE's Office of Enterprise Assessments were on site to observe the exercise.
- The Flanged Tritium Waste Containers stored at Area G are still awaiting venting. Updated pressure calculations and standoff distances have been developed to account for the steadily increasing internal pressures. These will be used to revise the safety basis addenda that will support venting.