

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 17, 2025

TO: Todd Davis, Acting Technical Director
FROM: E. Freeman, D. Gutowski, and J. Kemp, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending January 17, 2025

Staff Activity: On Thursday, a staff team held a closeout teleconference with DOE's Office of Environmental Management and N3B personnel to discuss the results of the staff's initial review of the new documented safety analysis for Area G (see 11/8/2024 report). Implementation of this documented safety analysis is currently paused (see 12/20/2024 report).

Federal Oversight–Training: On Monday, the DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments released the final report for its independent assessment of Triad's training and qualification program. This assessment was conducted between July and September 2024 and identified several strengths and weaknesses. This assessment complements a separate independent assessment that was sponsored by the NNSA Field Office in July 2024 and released in October 2024 (see 10/25/2024 report). Field Office leadership has communicated the results of these assessments to Triad, which is developing a path forward to address the findings from both reports.

RANT Shipping Facility: Last Tuesday, Triad submitted to the NNSA Field Office for approval a temporary modification to the RANT safety basis that would allow for staging of large transuranic waste containers holding gloveboxes removed from the Plutonium Facility in the RANT yard. The RANT safety basis currently only allows receipt of containers certified for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and one other specified container type. The containers with gloveboxes are not in either category. The safety basis addendum adds these as an allowable container type and does not change the existing material at risk limits for the facility. If approved, the RANT yard will provide another option in addition to Technical Area 55 and the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building yard to stage the large number of gloveboxes being removed from the Plutonium Facility to make room for new equipment installation. On Wednesday, a resident inspector joined Triad management on a routine walkdown of RANT, which included the planned staging location in the RANT yard for these containers.

Transuranic Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (TLW): The new TLW is designed to provide collection, storage, treatment, and disposal of transuranic liquid waste streams that vary in volume, reactivity, and chemical content. The facility has been under design and construction for the last several years and construction is substantially completed. Triad and its construction subcontractor have begun the testing and commissioning phase currently scheduled to be complete near the end of February. Recently a resident inspector visited the project site to observe work including various design features, storage and process tanks and process equipment, and engineered radiological safety features. The resident inspector noted missing bolts for process tanks and interference of valve handles with facility support structures. The resident inspector shared the observations with project management.