

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 4, 2025

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Los Alamos Site Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending April 4, 2025

**Waste Characterization, Reduction, and Repackaging Facility (WCRRF)–Readiness:** On Wednesday, a federal readiness assessment (FRA) team concluded their review and provided a summary of the results to site management. The FRA team identified one finding and ten observations. The finding is related to workers needing additional personal protective equipment when performing certain tasks and will need to be resolved prior to the introduction of nuclear material. Most of the observations were related to industrial hazards. Two other observations related to providing better categorization of abandoned equipment, and one related to providing maintenance on process area doors in addition to the current function checks. The FRA team identified two noteworthy practices during the review: the maintenance of a crosswalk of WCRRF fire protection exemptions and equivalencies, and the positive questioning attitude demonstrated by Triad personnel. The Los Alamos resident inspectors performed oversight of the FRA, including attending selected activities, and do not have any concerns. Los Alamos site management expects to resolve the finding promptly through a procedure revision and to start operations at WCRRF in the next few months.

**Safety Basis:** On Wednesday, the NNSA Field Office unconditionally approved Triad's ten-year update to the natural phenomena hazards assessment. This document provides the latest wind, precipitation, flooding, lightning, and volcanic hazards for use in facility safety bases. There were no significant increases to these hazards since the last assessment, so the changes will be incorporated into the next annual update of the safety bases. However, this assessment does not include seismic hazards. These will be included in the updated probabilistic seismic hazards analysis, which is still being finalized.

On Wednesday, Triad provided the NNSA Field Office with an update regarding the finalization of the new documented safety analysis and technical safety requirements for the Plutonium Facility (see 8/30/2024 report). Triad stated that all comments from the field office and the DOE Office of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Assessments have been resolved, while internal comments from Triad engineering organizations are currently being addressed. Triad plans to deliver the final safety basis submittal to the field office for approval in the third quarter of fiscal year 2025.

**Area G–Safety Basis:** On Tuesday, N3B personnel identified that newly installed safety-class concrete liquid impediments in Dome 153 were leaking non-contaminated water through expansion joints. They applied sealant to repair the joints but, on Wednesday, N3B personnel identified further leakage at the impediment and from cracks in nearby asphalt. The liquid impediments are a safety-class control under the new documented safety analysis for Area G that has not yet been implemented (see 02/07/2025 report). N3B personnel noted that the liquid impediment had construction issues back in December 2024 and they did not perform the necessary testing after it was installed. N3B put in additional compensatory measures, such as placing sandbags and moving drums, and they are developing a path forward for repair and prevention of recurrence.