

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 11, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Los Alamos Site Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending July 11, 2025

Onsite Transportation: Last Tuesday, Triad personnel declared a violation of the Technical Safety Requirements (TSR) for the Packaging and Transportation (P&T) safety basis. P&T personnel identified that the driver did not meet all of the TSR qualification requirements during an onsite movement of transuranic waste drums from the Transuranic Waste Facility to the RANT Shipping Facility. The driver maintains a state driver's license with the correct endorsement and experience to operate a truck safely and was under instruction of a fully qualified individual in the passenger seat; however, the specific administrative control for training and qualification in the P&T safety basis does not allow for a driver under instruction. Therefore, P&T determined that a TSR violation occurred during the transportation event listed below, and one other previous transport.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF)/Onsite Transportation: Last Monday, P&T personnel were preparing to move a load of transuranic waste drums from TWF to the RANT Shipping Facility. The loaded trailer disconnected and slid off the truck as it started moving. TWF personnel found the drums were still secured in the trailer, with no evidence of damage and no radiological contamination. An immediate operability evaluation concluded that there was no damage to the drainage slope of TWF, which provides a safety-significant function. The shipment was transported to RANT with a different truck. P&T personnel identified issues with the first truck's hitch. Corrective actions include an extent-of-condition review for other trucks with this type of hitch, evaluating whether to add this situation to abnormal event procedures for TWF, performing a lessons-learned for P&T personnel, and completing a more thorough engineering evaluation for the safety-significant drainage slope. This week, the resident inspectors went to the vehicle staging area with the P&T manager to see and better understand the failure mechanism of the hitch.

Plutonium Facility–Glovebox Safety: On Monday, an independent Triad investigation team commenced its review of last week's contaminated puncture event (see 7/4/2025 report). The team is conducting a comprehensive causal analysis with an expected completion date prior the end of August.

Area G: On Wednesday, a resident inspector observed a walkdown of the Area G facility, focused on Pit 9. The purpose of the walkdown was to familiarize the DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office with N3B plans for Pit 9 characterization, which will support future remediation efforts. Attendees discussed the boundaries of Pit 9, how collocated facilities within Area G could be impacted, and some upcoming technical challenges. After the meeting, N3B conducted a briefing for the same organizations to go over their current efforts, schedule, and technical considerations for the future remediation of the waste in Pit 9.