

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 7, 2025

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** LLNL Report for October 2025

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Staff Interactions:** The Board's staff conducted no onsite activities at LLNL in October 2025.

**Super Block Engineering Reorganization:** Lawrence Livermore National Security LLC (LLNS) completed a reorganization in the Super Block in which 25 engineering staff members transitioned from the Strategic Deterrence line organization to the Engineering Directorate's Defense Technologies Engineering Division (DTED). The reorganization was the result of a comprehensive review of Super Block operations conducted by LLNS and led by an independent panel earlier this year. The review panel made recommendations on a range of topics, including the reorganization of the Super Block engineering staff. The change brings the Super Block group — which consists of engineers, program managers, and technologists — under the administrative oversight of DTED, joining a team of 40 engineers already supporting programmatic execution at the Super Block. Super Block Engineering is currently prioritizing multiple simultaneous activities, including updating critical equipment and commissioning new capabilities. LLNS management noted that the day-to-day responsibilities of the affected staff have not changed, only their administrative reporting lines.

**Alternate Shipping Method for National Ignition Facility (NIF) Diagnostic Samples:** On October 21, 2025, the Livermore Field Office (LFO) approved the use of an alternate shipping method for post-shot diagnostic samples from NIF containing plutonium. LFO noted that the post-shot diagnostic samples will be located within the metal Cryo-XNBS Snout, which is contained in a sealed aluminum box, all within an aluminum Department of Transportation certified sealed container. This configuration provides four layers of metal containment that exceeds the core Packaging and Transportation Safety Basis Document (TSBD) requirement for sealed, double containment with at least one metal layer. Based on LFO's review, this alternate shipping method for post-shot diagnostic samples at Site 200 can be managed as a Less-than-Hazard Category 3 activity under the TSBD.

**Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Startup Notification Report (SNR):** On October 21, 2025, LLNS submitted the Fourth Quarter FY 2025 SNR to LFO in compliance with the Department of Energy Order 425.1D, *Verification of Readiness to Start Up or Restart Nuclear Facilities* requirements, and to update the information from the previous SNR submittal. The SNR includes startup of the Hazard Category 3 Tritium Delivery System (TDS) in the Building 331 radioactive materials area. The TDS comprises a new set of gloveboxes that provide storage, purification, handling of tritium, deuterium, and hydrogen isotope mixes, and filling of bottles and target capsules of various hydrogen isotope composition. LLNS noted ongoing discussions with LFO regarding the review approach for the TDS startup, which is currently planned as a checklist readiness assessment conducted by LLNS. LFO is reviewing the SNR submittal.