

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 5, 2025

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Nevada National Security Sites (NNSS) Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** NNSS Report for November 2025

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** The Board's staff did not conduct on-site activities in November.

**Worker Glove Puncture Event at National Criticality Experiments Research Center (NCERC):** On November 17, 2025, a maintenance worker punctured their glove in a contamination area during bolt installation on the Planet Critical Assembly Machine at NCERC. The puncture caused a small cut to the worker's finger. The NNSS radiological control personnel surveyed the affected area of the worker's hand and bolt and detected no signs of contamination. The worker was transported to occupational medicine for further monitoring.

**Nevada Field Office (NFO) Review of Concrete Pour Event at Principal Underground Laboratory for Subcritical Experimentation (PULSE):** On November 20, 2025, NFO reviewed the investigation conducted by Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS) of an event related to a worker becoming ill during a concrete pour in a drift at PULSE. The worker became ill due to fumes emanating from a sealant used to promote concrete adhesion. The affected worker was transported to a hospital and medical tests resulted in no findings. NFO reviewed the investigation to ensure MSTS met applicable Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program* requirements. NFO concluded MSTS met all applicable requirements. Specifically, MSTS industrial hygiene personnel properly analyzed the hazards associated with the use of the sealant, identified appropriate engineered controls for ventilation, and the personal protective equipment used by personnel adequately minimized exposure to the fumes.

**Potential Worker Exposure Event at Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC):** On October 29, 2025, a facility worker heard an unexpected noise and observed sparking during grouting operations of several open 4-inch floor penetrations in a building at RWMC. The worker stopped work, exited the facility, and notified the facility manager and local emergency director (LED). The LED walked outside the building and noted two fuses had blown. The fuses are used to supply power to several buildings at RWMC. During the walkdown, the LED observed dust and smoke coming from the building where the worker had been earlier. The LED contacted fire dispatch and notified RWMC personnel via a radio announcement to alert them of the event. The NNSS fire and rescue instructed personnel to evacuate the building, isolated power to the building where the sparking was observed and noted moderate damage in the building's interior insulation. MSTS will ensure power to the affected building remains isolated until all floor penetrations are determined to be electrically safe, and an event investigation is completed.

**Solution High Energy Burst Assembly (SHEBA) Material Staging at Device Assembly Facility (DAF):** On September 24, 2025, NFO issued the safety evaluation report that approved a safety basis revision to the DAF safety basis. The revision would allow handling, transferring, and staging of small quantities of SHEBA material that would not require the use of DOE Standard 3013, *Stabilization, Packaging, and Storage of Plutonium-Bearing Materials* compliant containers. The technical basis used to justify these operations assumes the material mass has a much lower plutonium-239 equivalent content than plutonium. MSTS concluded a pressurized release and dispersal of the material would result in a significantly low dose consequence to the public and worker.