DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 13, 2026

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Los Alamos Site Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending February 13, 2026

Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis: On Monday, the resident inspectors observed workers respond to the unexpected discovery of heat source plutonium fragments in the glovebox where the heat source container rapidly depressurized during cutting (see 12/5/2025, 12/12/2025 reports). The workers were removing an old cutting tool and discovered that material had been forced under the equipment during the event. They appropriately paused and called a potential process deviation. With concurrence from facility operations personnel, they placed the material into a robust container with a creditable damage ratio. Operations personnel re-entered the safety basis addendum that covers processing the Idaho National Laboratory heat source material and performed the daily material at risk surveillance until heat source personnel dispositioned the material later in the week. Receipt of new heat source material of this type remains paused until means to prevent future depressurization events are developed and implemented.

Plutonium Facility–Operations: Last Thursday, resident inspectors observed workers perform the first transfer of acid waste from the aqueous nitrate process to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility in more than a decade. This is the final new performance of a major sub-process since the aqueous nitrate process restarted last spring (see 4/11/2025 report).

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building: A resident inspector observed a management walkdown of Wing 9. The current mission in Wing 9 primarily consists of staging and repackaging of legacy waste and materials from CMR and other facilities for transfer to final storage or disposal. The team observed the operational areas, including legacy material repackaging in the hot cells and high bay area, hazard control implementation, waste areas, and general housekeeping. The team identified and discussed several issues with facility operations staff including radiological and industrial waste that did not meet labeling requirements, chemical labeling issues, and steam condensate leaks. Additionally, workers demonstrated the planned repair to hot cell filter holder jacks. Several filter jacks, which hold the filters in position, recently failed during filter maintenance. The impacted cells are out of service.

N3B–Training: Last week, N3B identified a gap in its training program. The updated learning management system was not properly reflecting that fall protection program training has a two-year requalification requirement. This impacted approximately 100 personnel throughout N3B including radiological control technicians. Management immediately paused all tasks requiring fall protection until retraining is complete. N3B is performing an extent-of-condition review to evaluate if there are other issues related to the update of the learning management system.

Ion Beam Facility: The resident inspectors met with APTIM personnel and walked down the Ion Beam Facility to observe progress on decontamination and demolition activities. One current effort is equipment removal from the horizontal accelerator, which will be demolished prior to the vertical accelerator. Last week, APTIM personnel removed the radioactive liquid waste line from the piping gallery in the sub-basement.