

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 20, 2026

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Los Alamos Site Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending February 20, 2026

Staff Activity: Resident inspectors were at headquarters this week.

TA-21-0257 and Delta Prime (DP) Site Waste Lines–Safety Basis: On Tuesday, the contractor submitted a revision of the TA-21 DP Site safety basis to the DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office. The revision primarily focuses on clarifying the boundaries and status of the industrial waste line removal effort that falls within the scope of the current contract.

Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis: The NNSA Los Alamos Field Office approved, with conditions, a revision to the safety basis and technical safety requirements based on the recommendations of a safety evaluation report recommending approval. The documents were revised to be compliant with DOE standard DOE-STD-3009-2014. The majority of the conditions of approval focus on fire protection and related topics.

Chemistry Metallurgy and Research–Operations: Recently, workers retrieved one of the remaining high-radiation dose-rate legacy items from the long-term high dose storage area and placed it into a hot cell as part of inventory categorization and reduction activities. The facility is working on characterizing and repackaging legacy materials and shipping them off to other facilities or for disposal. Workers performed the infrequent evolution in accordance with the procedure, and no unplanned incidents occurred during the activity.

While characterizing glovebox inventories last year, workers identified a legacy higher-dose-rate material located inside a lead shielded box inside one of the gloveboxes. Workers recently measured the dose rate and determined it exceeded their current radiological work permit (RWP) allowances and paused work. Facility workers are currently developing a work plan and RWP controls needed to safely move the material to the hot cells for packaging and disposal.

Plutonium Facility–Operations: Recently, workers identified a potential process deviation when they discovered additional residual plutonium-bearing material contained inside equipment they were disassembling in the glovebox where a previous event occurred (see 12/5/2025 report). The prior event, which involved an energetic release of pressure, had propelled the plutonium material inside the piece of equipment. Facility personnel responded to the event and determined no immediate safety hazards existed. Resident inspectors observed the initial response. Facility staff developed and executed a recovery and cleanup plan, and the glovebox was returned to service without further incident. Facility management held a fact-finding meeting, and no additional actions or concerns with the response were identified.