**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

October 2, 2026

**Los Alamos National Laboratory Resident Inspectors Activity Report for Week Ending October 2, 2026**

**Area G–Safety Basis:** On Wednesday, N3B personnel completed implementation of the new DOE-STD-3009-2014 safety basis. Activities at Area G are now covered by the new document. N3B personnel will be performing facility operations under a deliberate operations plan to support transition. The plan includes a list of specific operations and maintenance activities that require an initial walkthrough and management oversight during initial performance prior to release to full unrestricted operations.

**Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF):** Last Thursday, facility personnel responded to a waste container of questionable integrity due to substantial corrosion on the lower half of the drum. Engineering personnel initially determined the drum was inoperable and not able to perform its safety function. The hazardous materials team overpacked the 55-gallon drum of concern into an 85-gallon drum. However, TWF or hazardous materials personnel do not have a procedure to seal the lid of the container such that it can be credited as a safety-class waste container. Facility personnel evaluated developing such a procedure following a 2019 response to a drum issue (see 12/20/2019 report). However, they determined that such a drum would not be accepted at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant without being overpacked into a standard waste box, so they did not develop a local procedure. Further investigation of this corroded drum found that it had already been evaluated with a set of drums previously staged outside at Technical Area 55 that all had corrosion due to exposure to the elements. As this drum had the worst corrosion, it had been ultrasonically tested, and facility management issued a memo stating this set of drums was of sound integrity. Based on this additional data, engineering personnel concluded that the drum was operable.

**Fire Protection:** On Monday, the NNSA Field Office conditionally approved a revision to the site Baseline Needs Assessment (BNA). The BNA analyzes firefighting and other emergency response needs and capabilities for the laboratory and determines if the available resources meet those needs. While the BNA indicates the needs are generally met, the field office identified 17 mostly administrative issues requiring disposition in the letter of approval.

**Weather Impacts:** Northern New Mexico experienced a significant rainfall event over the past week causing several site impacts. The subsidence in Technical Area 21 grew substantially larger, leading to a new evaluation, which concluded it was bounded by the existing potential inadequacy in the safety analysis (see 8/28/2026 report). There is no exposed waste and no contamination spread due to the recent event. Waste domes at Area G experienced leakage and water ingress. N3B personnel are obtaining subcontractor support for dome repairs. APTIM personnel are checking the Ion Beam Facility for any contamination migration following water ingress in the horizontal accelerator as they complete final preparations for demolition of that portion of the facility. The resident inspectors walked down exterior and interior portions of the Plutonium Facility where previous weather events led to water ingress and observed no water ingress on the interior; they observed several exterior leaks in the rain gutter system.

**NNSA Field Office:** Mr. Theodore Wyka completed his assignment as the NNSA Field Office manager. Mr. Michael Mikolanis will replace him effective next week.