DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 25, 2026

Los Alamos National Laboratory Resident Inspectors Activity Report for Week Ending September 25, 2026

Changes to Safety Directives: Last Friday, Triad provided the NNSA Field Office with an alignment plan outlining the approach and schedule for implementing the recently revised DOE directives. The alignment plan describes, at a high level, the schedule, contract changes, and methodology proposed to align the contractor's management programs with the revised DOE directives (see 8/21/2026 report).

Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis: On Tuesday, based on the results of a routine data report for limited-use containers, Triad personnel identified that eight containers should have been designated as limited-use given their contents. Limited-use containers are robust containers that are packaged for short term use in a manner that does not meet all the requirements of the DOE packaging manual, and therefore should not have a damage ratio applied. Further evaluation determined that these containers were being credited with an improper damage ratio. Facility personnel entered the appropriate limiting condition for operations and set the damage ratio for these eight containers to one in the material-at-risk tracking systems. This did not cause an issue for first-floor material-at-risk limits. Triad personnel are performing a broad extent of condition to determine whether other limited-use containers are being credited inappropriately.

Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility: On Wednesday, facility operations suspended operation of the safety-significant tritium gas handling system (TGHS) due to discovery of mineral oil within the system. Facility management held a fact-finding during which they determined the mineral oil came from a recently calibrated pressure transducer installed on the system. The participants determined a subcontractor had previously calibrated the transducer offsite using mineral oil even though the calibration plan did not allow use of liquids to calibrate the equipment. Facility operations and engineering personnel are performing a review to determine if the oil will have any negative impacts on the TGHS and are working on a restoration plan. The team discussed corrective actions including additional inspections of components before installation and revisions to the procedure used when receiving equipment from outside vendors.

Transuranic Waste Facility: At the end of the day last Wednesday, facility operations personnel discovered that a pallet of unattended waste containers was non-compliant with the limiting condition for operation for indoor combustible-loading spacing requirements within one waste storage building. Facility operations corrected the condition upon discovery. Facility management held a fact-finding at which they determined the situation resulted from a miscommunication between waste handlers, exacerbated by multiple jobs occurring concurrently and weather conditions, including heavy rain. The team discussed corrective actions including evaluating staffing levels due to increased workload and having additional copies of procedures available to workers.