

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 3, 2017

TO: Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Douglas J. Brown, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Sandia National Laboratories Report for February 2017

Staff Activity at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). On February 13, 2017, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's (Board) SNL Cognizant Engineer supported a tour of the nuclear weapons displays at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Museum with a member of the Board. On February 14-16, 2017, the SNL Cognizant Engineer conducted a quarterly cognizant engineer site visit to include oversight and interaction with SNL and Sandia Field Office (SFO) personnel.

Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) Calibration Update. On January 31, 2017, both Wide Range instruments were re-calibrated and ACRR resumed programmatic operations. This action corrected an event reported in the January monthly report in which both WR instruments were inadvertently placed in an out-of-calibration condition.

ACRR Pulse Fire Time Update. As noted in the December monthly report, ACRR pulse operations were suspended after a fire time anomaly was observed by the operator on December 13, 2016. On February 3, 2017, an orifice and regulator for the Pulse Fire Time mechanical system was replaced and returned to the manufacture for testing. On February 6, 2017, the re-test of pulse timing was within expected timing and pulse operations capability was restored.

Update on Activities Related to the Board's Staff Conduct of Operations and Maintenance Follow-Up Review, September 2016. On February 6, 2017, SFO issued a summary of issues, weakness, and opportunities for improvement stemming from the subject review in a letter to the contractor. SNL is required to develop a corrective action plan within 90 days of receipt of the letter to address 24 identified line items. Based on a discussion with Technical Area V managers, each line item will be adjudicated per the TAV Condition Reporting process.

Sandia Pulsed Reactor Facility (SPRF) Fire Suppression Update. Three alternatives (dry-pipe aqueous sprinkler system, gaseous agent system, or water-atomizing system) for fire suppression capability at SPRF are being evaluated by SNL and SFO management.

Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) Campaign 18. Draft AHCF procedures for the next handling evolution, Campaign 18, are under review. The actual start date of the evolution is still to be determined.

Sandia Field Office (SFO) Hiring Initiative Update. Based on the current Federal hiring freeze, the efforts to fill a Program Manager and Senior Facility Representative vacancies on the SFO staff have been suspended.