

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 7, 2017

**TO:** Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Austin R. Powers, Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Report for March 2017

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** D. Andersen and A. Powers conducted a close-out teleconference with the Nevada Field Office (NFO) and National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), for the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) Gravel Gertie in-service inspection review.

**DAF Fire Suppression System (FSS) Improvement Project:** During the month of March, NSTec continued to make improvements to the FSS in DAF. For building 14 out of 25, NSTec construction has completed all construction activities and addressed the sprinkler deficiencies. NSTec construction turned this building over to facility personnel, after which facility personnel performed the surveillance testing and confirmed that there were no leaks within the system. NSTec declared the building operable during the month of March. NSTec construction also completed all construction activities for another building (building 15 out of 25) during the month of March. For this building, the sprinklers have an overhead spacing equivalency (therefore, there were no sprinkler deficiencies to correct). NSTec construction plans to complete all activities during the month of April. NSTec also anticipates returning this building to operable status during the month of April.

Lastly, the NNSS Monthly Report for February 2017 stated that NSTec was planning to begin construction activities for building 16 out of 25 during the month of March. However, NSTec has postponed the construction activities for this building and will instead begin construction activities for two additional buildings (buildings 17 and 18 out of 25). This will allow NSTec to address the lead-in line for one of the most active buildings inside the DAF.

**U1a Complex Safety Basis Update:** During the month of March, NFO received the condition of approval resolution package for the U1a Complex safety basis (i.e., Change Notice 1 to the safety basis) from NSTec. As stated in the NNSS Monthly Report for February 2017, NSTec safety basis personnel and the NFO safety basis review team (SBRT) have been working together closely to resolve the six conditions of approval identified in the safety evaluation report (SER). In Change Notice 1 to the U1a Complex safety basis, NSTec addressed and resolved all conditions of approval. In addition, Change Notice 1 also addressed six issues that needed to be resolved by the next update, and two concerns raised by the national laboratories. NFO completed the new SER for Change Notice 1 and has approved the new safety basis for the U1a Complex. The new SER did not identify any conditions of approval nor additional issues that need to be resolved by the next update.

**U1a Complex:** During the month of March, the U1a Complex conducted the Eurydice surrogate subcritical experiment. The experiment was conducted successfully and returned 100% data. The experiment was executed in a safe manner with no safety issues to report.