

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 5, 2017

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

DNFSB Staff Activity: The Board's staff did not conduct any on-site activities at NNSS during the month of April.

Device Assembly Facility (DAF) Fire Suppression System (FSS) Improvement Project:

During the month of April, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), continued to make improvements to the FSS in DAF. For building 15 out of 25, NSTec declared the building operable during the month of April. For this building, the sprinklers have an overhead spacing equivalency (therefore, there were no sprinkler deficiencies to correct). NSTec construction has also completed all construction activities for building 17 out of 25. Similar to building 15 out of 25, building 17 out of 25 also has an overhead spacing equivalency for the sprinklers. NSTec anticipates returning this building to operable status during the month of May. NSTec construction has also begun construction activities for buildings 18 and 19 out of 25. For building 18 out of 25, NSTec anticipates all construction activities (no sprinkler deficiencies) will be completed and this building returned to operable status during the month of May. For building 19 out of 25, NSTec has decided to address the lead-in this fiscal year instead the next fiscal year. Also, building 19 out of 25 will be the first building that has its lead-in lines addressed on the back side of the building. For the buildings on the back side, NSTec has decided not to excavate the lead-in lines given how deep underground the lead-in lines are buried and the fact that their entry point into the facility is physically underneath the building. Instead, NSTec will follow an approach similar to that which has been used for most of buildings that were addressed in the FSS Improvement Project. NSTec will abandon the lead-in lines for the buildings on the back side and tie each FSS into the fire loop inside of DAF. The NNSS cognizant engineer will continue to follow the progress of the improvements made to the DAF FSS.

U1a Complex Upgrades: During the month of April, NSTec has continued to make improvements to the U1a Complex. In particular, as part of the U1a Complex fire protection improvement project, NSTec has made progress on the installation of a fire barrier within the .01 drift. This fire barrier will separate the maintenance and equipment storage area (located at the beginning of the .01 drift) from the rest of the facility. NSTec plans to have the fire barrier installation complete during the month of May. Also, as part of the effort to replace the air compressors for the U1a Complex, NSTec has installed a new air compressor pipe. The pipe is currently being tied into a temporary air compressor (which will primarily be used as back-up) while they replace the old air compressors. The U1a complex will rely on the U1h compressor (which can cover the whole complex) while the replacement effort is occurring. Once the new air compressors have been installed, they will be tied into the new pipe.