

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 5, 2017

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

Staff Activity at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). There were no onsite Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) staff reviews or oversight visits in April. On April 25-27, 2017, three Board's staff members attended the 2017 Nuclear Explosive Safety Workshop.

Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) – Safety Basis Documentation. On April 12, 2017, Sandia Field Office (SFO) issued their Safety Evaluation Report Addendum for the *Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) Safety Basis 2016 Annual Update, Change Notice 9 (CN9)*. SFO performed an independent review of the proposed page changes along with the supporting Unreviewed Safety Question Determinations and Screens for the AHCF Safety Basis 2016 Annual Update. SFO concluded that the AHCF Safety Basis 2016 Annual Updates meet the annual requirement for submittal of an updated documented safety analysis as specified in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 830, Subpart B, *Safety Basis Requirements*.

The AHCF Safety Basis currently consists of Basis of Interim Operations (BIO) documents that were initially approved in September 2009. On March 8, 2017, SFO issued a letter, *Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility Basis for Interim Operation Path Forward*, to the contractor that requested an evaluation of alternatives to eliminate the BIO. The evaluation is due by June 30, 2017.

AHCF Campaign 18 Update. As originally noted in the February 2017 monthly report, SFO has formally reviewed and approved the AHCF Campaign Plan for Campaign No. 18 titled *Non-accountable ACRR Experiments* and the Campaign Operating Procedure for Campaign No. 18 (AHCF-OP-024). Sandia personnel have started the campaign, processing the first item the week of April 17.

Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) Reactivity Control System Upgrade (RCSU). An RCSU upgrade is planned for mid-2018. SFO requested a resource-loaded schedule for the Sandia RCSU project by March 17, 2017. The enhanced functionality and improved system reliability from the upgrade will benefit Sandia's National Security mission. SFO has also previously identified its intent to perform a Federal Readiness Assessment before Sandia brings ACRR back on line after completing the RCSU project.

SFO Staffing. SFO has filled the vacant Management Analyst and Senior Facility Representative (FR) positions noted in the January and February monthly reports. Additionally, SFO identified internally a developmental FR. This increases the total number of FRs from one to three in support of activities in Technical Area V (TA-V).

Facility Representative Qualifications. On March 22, 2017, the current FR completed re-qualification requirements at the ACRR Facility and completed initial qualifications for the remaining two nuclear facilities (Sandia Pulsed Reactor/Critical Experiments Facility and AHCF) in TA-V.