

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 5, 2018

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

DNFSB Staff Activity: K. Amundson and A. Powers were on site from December 11th to 14th to conduct routine oversight of NNSS. During the visit, the staff members observed operations and improvements on safety systems at the various NNSS defense nuclear facilities.

NNSS Management and Operating Contractor Status: During the month of December, Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS), completed their transition to become the new management and operating contractor for NNSS. As stated in the NNSS Monthly Ending May 2017, MSTS is a limited liability company consisting of Honeywell International, Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., and Stoller Newport News Nuclear, Inc. The site manager and deputy site manager for MSTS are Mark Martinez and John Benner, respectively.

Device Assembly Facility (DAF) Fire Suppression System (FSS) Improvement Project: During the month of December, MSTS took over the lead-in line replacement project from National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), and continued to make improvements to the FSS in DAF. For the 21st building out of 25 buildings in which MSTS plans to make FSS improvements, MSTS postponed the removal of the temporary modification from the riser to January. MSTS also plans to address the FSS deficiencies on the first floor of this building during the month of January. For the 20th building out of 25 buildings to be addressed, MSTS continued to make progress on removing its faulty lead-in line isolation valve. Given that the lead-in line is currently isolated and the building's FSS is already tied into the inside firewater loop, MSTS can return the building to an operable status while the isolation valve removal is still being resolved. MSTS plans to have the building operable by January 2018.

As mentioned in the NNSS Monthly Ending October 2017, NSTec experienced a lift in the standpipe for the 20th building out of 25 buildings to be addressed due to its faulty isolation valve. During the month of December, MSTS experienced an additional standpipe lift situation for the 21st building out of 25 buildings to be addressed. However, for this particular building, MSTS did not have the same issue with closing the isolation valve. MSTS believes that part of the lift is due to the standpipe being disconnected from the all-thread rods (which run down and wrap around the bottom the lead-in line) during the removal of the strainer and installation of the flange. MSTS has installed a modification to standpipe that reattached the all-thread rods to the pipe for both of the buildings that were affected by this lift. MSTS plans to install this modification for all of the remaining buildings that need to be addressed.