

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 1, 2019

**TO:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director

**FROM:** Daniel B. Bullen, Ph.D., P.E., Cognizant Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Report for January 2019

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Staff Activity:** The Board's staff provided one person-week of on-site safety oversight at SNL during January 2019. On January 28–31, 2019, the Board's cognizant engineer for SNL conducted walkdowns of Technical Area V (TA-V) with the Facility Representative and met with Sandia Field Office (SFO) and National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS) managers to discuss current items of interest to the Board. The cognizant engineer met with the Deputy Manager, the Assistant Manager for Engineering, and the Team Lead for Nuclear Operations at SFO. The cognizant engineer also met with the Senior Manager of TA-V, Manager of Nuclear Facility Operations at TA-V, and members of the NQA-1 quality assurance implementation team to follow up on items discussed during recent reviews completed by the Board's staff at SNL.

**Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) - High Bay Fire System Water Leak:** On January 3, 2019, ACRR staff members discovered a water leak in the piping that supplies water to the ACRR High Bay fire sprinkler system. ACRR staff noted that the leak started a few minutes after they opened the high bay on the morning of January 3, 2019. ACRR staff immediately notified SNL facility management personnel and began collecting the leaking water. The leak rate was approximately 0.1 gallons per minute. SNL staff completed repairs and returned the sprinkler system to service by the end of the day. SNL staff found no permanent damage to the fire sprinkler system. Over the previous few days, the Albuquerque area experienced extremely cold temperatures that caused water leaks elsewhere at SNL.

**Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility - Waste Repackaging Campaign 16:** During the week of January 14, 2019, the Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility staff began repackaging waste generated by the Degraded Core Coolability (DCC) experiments as part of Campaign 16. Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility staff processed the first DCC container during the week of January 14–18, 2019, and the second DCC container during the week of January 21–25, 2019. SNL management expects Campaign 16 repackaging to continue for the next few months.

**SFO Operating Procedure Implementation – Board Interface:** On December 31, 2018, SFO implemented its *Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Interface* procedure (No. 0303.01, Revision 7). SFO noted that this document supplements Department of Energy (DOE) Order 140.1, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*. This procedure does not change any requirements of the Order, but provides site-specific guidance and expectations to ensure the quality and responsiveness of SFO interactions with the Board. This procedure also states that DOE and SFO policy is to cooperate with the Board and provide the Board with ready access to such facilities, personnel, and information as necessary to carry out the Board's statutory responsibilities.