

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 1, 2019

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** J.W. Plaue and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending March 1, 2019

**Federal Oversight:** On Wednesday, NNSA Field Office management conducted the final oral board for a facility representative assigned to the Plutonium Facility. The final qualification walk-through occurred last week. The candidate successfully completed these evaluations bringing the total of fully qualified personnel assigned to facility representative duties up to two with one each assigned to the Plutonium Facility and the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility. The field office has a pool of eight facility representatives in training to increase their field oversight capabilities.

**RANT Shipping Facility:** On Thursday, the NNSA Field Office approved restart of the facility. On Wednesday, subsequent to the transmission of a review agenda from the Board's staff, Triad personnel entered the New Information process to evaluate an apparent inconsistency in the damage ratios used in the safety basis in the analysis of payload drops.

**Area G:** On Wednesday, N3B management paused all operations after they learned that workers were executing the corrective maintenance on the safety class vehicle barrier cables in a manner inconsistent with the specified sequence. Engineering personnel are consulting with the vendor to confirm the acceptability of this alternate assembly method. This is N3B's third work pause in recent weeks. Following the current pause, management is releasing individual activities after the work documents are revalidated.

**Plutonium Facility–Transuranic Waste Management:** Based on current waste storage utilization levels of about 90 % of capacity, Triad management has begun tapering certain residue generating activities from lower programmatic priority activities such as vault cleanout. Some residue generating activities, such as metal production, continue and are maximizing use of floor storage locations for their residues. During the next month, Triad management plans on executing multiple shipments to the Transuranic Waste Storage Facility to alleviate the situation and reduce the amount of waste in the facility.

**Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis:** On Thursday, Triad management transmitted to the NNSA Field Office for concurrence an implementation plan for the recently approved updated safety basis (see 2/15/2019 report). The plan anticipates declaration of implementation on or before December 20, 2019. Implementation will involve changes to approximately 99 procedures, associated training, and conduct of a major implementation verification review. The plan notes that implementation may need to be phased as a result of unknown completion dates for certain related key projects that include: MAR Tracker software update, installation of automatic transfer switches for the diesel generators that support the electric firewater pumps, and installation of the modern chlorine gas delivery system. Triad also informed the field office that they anticipate the need to submit a revision to this safety basis to support operational flexibility and correct previously identified issues, including the inadvertent omission of a process description for a needed activity.