

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 5, 2019

**TO:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Daniel B. Bullen, Ph.D., P.E., Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Report for June 2019

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (Board) Staff Activity:** On June 10–14, 2019, Board’s cognizant engineer for SNL was on site to observe the review of the Sandia Field Office (SFO) by a team from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) office of the Chief of Defense Nuclear Safety (CDNS) and to complete facility walkdowns and discussions with National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS) and SFO management and staff.

**SNL 2019 Annual Emergency Response Full Scale Exercise - After-Action Report (AAR):** On June 19, 2019, NTESS issued their AAR for two full-scale exercises conducted at Technical Area V (TA-V) on April 17, 2019, and May 22, 2019 (see SNL monthly reports for April 2019 and May 2019). NTESS stated, “The purpose of the exercises was to evaluate SNL’s site-wide ability and readiness to respond, manage, and recover from an emergency event, identify issues and noteworthy practices, and validate completed actions from prior issues.” In the AAR, the NTESS evaluation of the first exercise identified 31 objectives, three of which were not observed. NTESS noted nine opportunities for improvement and three noteworthy practices for this exercise. The NTESS evaluation of the second exercise evaluated 32 objectives and identified seven opportunities for improvement and three noteworthy practices. Members of the Board’s staff observed both exercises.

**Auxiliary Hot Cell Facility (AHCF) – Waste Repackaging Campaign 16:** The AHCF staff continues disassembly of experimental assemblies used in the Degraded Core Coolability (DCC) experiments as part of Campaign 16 (see SNL monthly report for February 2019). In late June, AHCF staff completed disassembly of the DCC-2 experimental assembly. In addition, AHCF staff extracted water samples from the DCC-3 container for analysis prior to commencing disassembly activities.

**CDNS Review of SFO:** On June 14, 2019, the Board’s cognizant engineer for SNL observed the out-brief presentation provided by the NNSA CDNS review team to the SFO. The CDNS review identified one finding, one weakness, and ten opportunities for improvement. The Finding, which was in the area of Radioactive Waste Management, identified that SFO did not provide formal approval of the radioactive waste technical basis document.

**Personnel Changes at SFO and NTESS:** SFO and NTESS recently made personnel changes that resulted in new points-of-contact (POC) for the Board. Mr. William Wechsler was promoted to the position of assistant manager for engineering at SFO and will no longer serve as the Board’s POC. He is succeeded as Board POC by Mr. James Todd, who was recently named SFO’s senior technical safety advisor. Ms. Angela Dayile will serve as the new NTESS liaison to the Board beginning on July 12, 2019. Ms. Dayile succeeds Mr. Randolph Castillo, who was recently promoted to the position of manager of the NTESS Safety and Security Regulatory Support Program.