

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 7, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Daniel B. Bullen, Ph.D., P.E., Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Report for July 2020

LLNL Operating Status in Response to COVID-19: On July 16, 2020, LLNL transitioned from Limited Operations status to Normal Operations with Maximized Telework. The LLNL site remains in Phase 1 of their process to resume work on site. Phase 1 includes maximized telework, essential only travel, maximized use of virtual training, and allows visitors on site on an “exception only” basis. Over the past month, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) and the Livermore Field Office (LFO) continued a gradual return of essential employees to the site to support activities related to facility operations, construction, classified and non-classified office-based activities, stockpile modernization, experimental lab work, maintenance, and facility support activities.

Search for New LLNL Director: On July 7, 2020, University of California (UC), announced the commencement of the LLNL Director search process. The University is responsible for leading the search for the next LLNL Director. The University’s search process will be similar in scope and breadth to those of prior Director searches for all three UC-affiliated labs — Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories. The process includes use of a Search Committee and a Screening Task Force, both of which include LLNL staff members.

Fiscal Year 2020 Fourth Quarter Startup Notification Report (SNR): LLNS submitted the fourth quarter fiscal year 2020 SNR to the LFO for approval on July 2, 2020. LLNS noted that the only significant change in the SNR was to the Hazard Category 2 Recovery Glovebox Line (RGB) readiness schedule, which has been delayed due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. LLNS noted that the remaining RGB tasks, coupled with diminished/delayed capabilities while some support staff are telecommuting, result in an updated schedule with the contractor readiness assessment commencing in January 2021 and the Federal readiness assessment commencing in March 2021. LLNS noted that this schedule continues to include additional uncertainty based on unknowns related to the date that facility operations will fully resume and the availability of personnel while operating under extended COVID-19 related restrictions.

Nuclear Facility Certification Program - Extension Request Approval: On July 27, 2020, the LFO approved an LLNS request to extend the Nuclear Materials Technology Program recertification deadline for 12 certified Superblock personnel through September 30, 2020. The extension aligns the Nuclear Facility Certification Program (NFCP) with the Human Reliability Program as addressed in National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Memo NNSA-2020-001565, *Exemption from Recertification Requirements of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 712, Human Reliability Program* and Department of Energy (DOE) Order 426.2, *Personnel Selection, Training, Qualification, and Certification Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities*. The LFO approved the extension of these 12 certified personnel to allow for safe operations during Normal Operations with Maximum Telework.