

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 2, 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 September 2020

**LLNL Operating Status in Response to COVID-19:** LLNL continued to operate under normal operations with maximized telework during September 2020. The LLNL site remains in Phase 1 of their process to resume work on site. Phase 1 includes maximized telework, mission essential travel only, maximized use of virtual training, and visitors on site allowed on an “exception only” basis.

**Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):** On September 14, 2020, LLNL submitted an amendment and associated proposed page changes to the Waste Storage Facilities (WSF) Documented Safety Analyses for approval by the Livermore Field Office (LFO). The proposed page changes update the number of lifts per year of TRU waste payload assemblies into Transuranic Packaging Transporter, Model Two casks. The number of lifts was increased from approximately 18 lifts per year to approximately 72 lifts per year in support of final disposal of TRU waste at WIPP. On September 23, 2020, LFO approved the amendment and page changes. On September 17, 2020, the first TRU waste shipment departed LLNL for WIPP. WSF personnel will continue shipping TRU waste to WIPP through October 2020.

**Nuclear Facility Certification Program Extension Request:** On September 4, 2020, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) requested a 180-day extension for the recertification of Superblock personnel to the requirements of DOE Order 426.2, *Personnel Selection, Training, Qualification and Certification Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities*. On March 19, 2020, LFO approved a previous 90-day extension request for all personnel in certified positions who were approaching their due date for recertification. LLNS requested an additional 180-day extension through March 30, 2021, for Superblock certified personnel based on the inability to meet the required Nuclear Facility Certification Program (NFCP) medical examinations. The Health Services Department at LLNL is not performing NFCP medical recertification exams during the COVID-19 pandemic. LLNS management proposes to meet with LFO representatives in January 2021 to review the COVID-19 transmission data and determine whether an earlier termination of the extension is warranted or if the extension should expire at the projected date. On September 28, 2020, LFO approved the extension request.

**Approval of the Conduct of Operations Matrix for Superblock Nuclear Materials Technology Program Facilities:** On September 8, 2020, LFO approved the Conduct of Operations Matrix for the Superblock Buildings, which had been submitted by LLNS on August 11, 2020. The matrix was updated from the June 2017 submittal as part of the triennial review and addresses the specific requirements and detailed attributes in DOE Order 422.1, *Conduct of Operations*, Administrative Change 3. LFO required that the revised matrix be implemented within 60 days.

**Approval of the LLNL Nuclear Maintenance Management Program:** On September 18, 2020, LFO approved the LLNL Nuclear Maintenance Management Program (NMMP) Institutional Manual, *LLNL Maintenance Management Program for Non-Reactor Nuclear Facilities*. LFO provided comments on the LLNL revision, which were addressed in the updated version of the manual. LFO required that the NMMP be fully implemented by December 31, 2020.