

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: J.W. Plaue and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending January 29, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: On Monday, members of the Board's staff held a call with N3B and EM Field Office personnel to discuss their current approach to addressing items described in DNFSB/TECH-46, *Potential Energetic Chemical Reaction Events Involving Transuranic Waste at Los Alamos National Laboratory*.

Flanged Tritium Waste Containers (FTWC): On Thursday, Triad transmitted to the NNSA Field Office for approval their corrective action plan from the federal readiness assessment for FTWC venting and handling activities at Area G. They also provided evidence of completed actions including: an evaluation of how recommendations and observations from the contractor readiness assessment were dispositioned; promulgation of lessons-learned regarding instrument positioning for remote readability; and validation of the operating procedure to confirm compliance with the technical safety requirements. If NNSA agrees that the corrective actions are adequate, they will transmit them for final approval to the Office of Environmental Management who is the startup authority for this activity.

Plutonium Facility–Infrastructure: This week, NNSA and Triad personnel continued multiple safety design integration team meetings in support of developing an acceptable safety design strategy for the Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project (see 1/22/2021 report). This week's focus topics included structural impacts, the ventilation system, and integration with the overall effort to upgrade the safety basis for the Plutonium Facility to DOE-STD-3009-2014, *Preparation of Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analysis*.

Transuranic Liquid Waste (TLW) Treatment Facility Project: Last month, Triad safety basis management transmitted to the NNSA Field Office for approval a revision to the preliminary safety basis and safety design strategy for the project. These revisions address field office comments on the versions submitted once project activities recommenced from suspension (see 9/22/2017 report). TLW will be a hazard category 3 nuclear facility that treats caustic and acidic transuranic liquid wastes resulting from production activities within, and subsequently transferred from, the Plutonium Facility. Significant changes include updating the requirements basis to DOE-STD-1189-2016, *Integration of Safety into the Design Process* from the 2008 version and DOE-STD-1228-2016, *Preparation of Documented Safety Analysis for Hazard Category 3 DOE Nuclear Facilities* from DOE-STD-3009-94-CN3, *Preparation Guide for U.S. Department of Energy Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Documented Safety Analyses*. The field office is reviewing the submittal.

Area G: N3B management recently declared two temporary stop works. One was taken in response to questions raised by safety basis personnel during the review of documents and the other was taken in response to a number of vehicle-related incidents.