

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 5, 2024

**TO:** Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending July 5, 2024

**Area G–Safety Basis:** The Environmental Management Chief of Nuclear Safety and supporting headquarters staff were on site Monday through Wednesday to hold meetings on the technical safety requirements (TSRs) to support final safety basis development for Area G (see 6/28/2024 report). They first met with supervisory operations personnel to discuss the draft TSRs. The group walked through the TSRs from an operations perspective looking for logical errors and useability. The headquarters personnel also provided N3B operations personnel with background on the philosophy used in developing TSRs. The next two days, they met with N3B management to further discuss the TSRs including the bases, minimum staffing requirements, and vehicle usage. The meetings resulted in many improvements for incorporation into the upcoming final submittal.

**Area L:** On Monday, N3B personnel received a low-level waste container with large amounts of free liquid. They packaged and shipped this item offsite for treatment last week. It leaked within its transport vehicle during transit. DOE’s Radiological Assistance Program team and the shipping subcontractor responded and stabilized the package for return to N3B. There was no spread of contamination detected. Now that the shipment is back in a controlled area at Area L, N3B personnel are evaluating how to safely unload and remediate the high liquid container.

**Plutonium Facility–Fire Protection:** Last Thursday, facility personnel moved the filters accumulating in basement filter rooms to a new location (see 6/21/2024 report). These filters exceeded the combustible limit postings in the three locations they were staged in. Fire protection engineering personnel stated that the entirely non-combustible construction of the new location and operable overhead sprinkler systems reduce the risk of staging in the new location. However, they recommended the filters be moved out of the facility as soon as possible. Facility personnel are working on improvements in organizational interfaces during filter changeouts to ensure that filters can be compliantly moved out of the facility as the appropriate form of waste without exceeding combustible limits in staging locations.