

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 11, 2007

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** M. J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)  
Report for Week Ending May 11, 2007

**Legacy Item Disposition:** This week, LLNL completed the third phase of the disposition project of a legacy item referred to as Object-77. This phase consisted of a complex drilling operation in a glovebox. The drilling was intended to relieve any potential pressure buildup in Object-77. The operation was conducted using a continuous use procedure that required verbatim compliance. The fissile material handlers (FMHs) performed the work with an appropriate level of formality of operations and the drilling operation was performed in the same manner as the FMHs had practiced and demonstrated during the readiness assessment process. The FMHs effectively implemented the safety controls, radiological controls, and ALARA techniques. The Site Representative observed the drilling operations that were safely completed and noted that the pressure and flammable gas hazards were real rather than hypothetical.

Completing this phase eliminates the unique hazards of the object. This was also the last phase that was included in the readiness assessment for the activity. The remaining work is considered to be routine glovebox operations controlled by an Operational Safety Plan (OSP). The only special controls for the final phases that disassemble the item and remove the nuclear material are in the area of radiological controls. External radiation levels from neutrons and gamma rays are expected to be relatively high compared to normal Plutonium Facility operations. For this reason, extremity dosimetry, electronic personal dosimeters (with job-specific alarm set points), and ALARA plan implementation will be utilized. The completion of the disassembly operations and recovery of nuclear material is expected later this month.

**LLNL Management Contract:** On May 8, 2007, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced its selection of a management and operating (M&O) contractor for LLNL. The NNSA final Request for Proposal (RFP) for the competitive selection was issued on July 14, 2006 and bids were received by October 27, 2006.

NNSA selected Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) – a team consisting of Bechtel National, University of California, BWX Technologies, Washington Group International, and Battelle. The team also includes Texas A&M University. The current laboratory director will become the president of LLNS and will lead the incoming team under the new contract. Contract transition will begin in July and the new contract will take effect on October 1, 2007. Both LLNL management and the Livermore Site Office (LSO) have been planning for the contract transition. LSO will now be in a position to review the contractor assurance system for LLNS and begin to modify the federal oversight of the contract as necessary to fully comply with DOE Order 226.1, *Implementation of Department of Energy Oversight Policy*.