

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 20, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Report for Week Ending May 20, 2005

Plutonium Facility Resumption Strategy: On May 18, 2005, LLNL provided the Livermore Site Office (LSO) with a draft project management plan for the resumption of programmatic activities in the Plutonium Facility. The plan includes resource requirements and schedules that will become the management tool for resuming facility operations. The basis for the plan was agreed to in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was executed between LLNL and LSO on May 16, 2005. The plan includes activities to implement compensatory measures and corrective actions, for the facility's Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs). The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Headquarters, LSO and LLNL are expected to finalize the plan in a video conference scheduled for May 25, 2005. Once approved, a change control process will be implemented to ensure that any changes to schedule priorities and issue resolution are approved by NNSA/HQ, LSO and LLNL.

The MOU includes a number of prerequisites that must be satisfied prior to performance of the readiness assessment to resume "reduced activities" in the facility. Included in the prerequisites are implementation of compensatory measures, independent assessment of the administrative control programs required by the TSRs, updated Operation Safety Plans (as needed), red-line drawings for all gloveboxes connected to the Glovebox Exhaust System, and confirmation that training for facility workers is current.

Environmental, Safety and Health Panel Meeting: On May 17, 2005, the site representative met with the University of California (UC) Environmental, Safety and Health Panel. The panel reports to the UC President's Council on National Laboratories. The charter of the panel includes the following:

- Review and advise the President's Council on Laboratory management performance in the areas of environmental protection, safety and health;
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Laboratories in fostering an atmosphere conducive to scientific inquiry and development of new technology while meeting regulatory requirements; and
- Advise the Council on DOE directives related to environmental protection, safety and health that may impose unnecessary and undue regulatory or contractual burdens on laboratory management.

The site representative participated in the executive session that included presentations by LLNL's Deputy Director and NNSA's Site Office Manager. The primary topics discussed by the site representative were the configuration management of vital safety systems in nuclear facilities, the Plutonium Facility resumption process, and nuclear material packaging requirements. The need for LLNL to improve the process for implementing Integrated Safety Management at the laboratory was also discussed. The panel appeared to be familiar with the current issues and met with nuclear safety representatives from LLNL during a breakout session.