

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 19, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Report for Week Ending August 19, 2005

DNFSB Staff Site Activity: Staff member T. Hunt was at LLNL observing the Plutonium Facility readiness assessment early this week and was relieved by staff member R.T. Davis who observed the assessment beginning on Tuesday of this week.

Plutonium Facility Resumption Status: On August 15, 2005, the Plutonium Facility readiness assessment (RA) for limited operations officially began. The LLNL and Livermore Site Office (LSO) RA teams received an in-briefing and then began interviews with facility staff and observation of facility activities. RA team observations of facility operations were limited this week because of on-going resolution of issues identified with Unistrut seismic supports (see weekly report dated August 5, 2005). Prior to beginning the RA, LLNL implemented compensatory measures and corrective actions to address previously identified Technical Safety Requirements programmatic deficiencies. LLNL's management self assessment concluded that the controls have been adequately implemented. As noted in the LLNL RA plan, the team will evaluate the adequacy of implementation of these controls. The contractor RA team is scheduled to complete its review next week. The LSO RA team has been reviewing facility activities and programs along with conduct of the LLNL RA. A member of the LSO team will also be reviewing the effectiveness of LSO oversight of facility operations next week.

Conduct of Operations Training: The LLNL Nuclear Materials Technology Program (NMTP) initiated conduct of operations training this week for all employees with unescorted access to NMTP facilities (i.e. Plutonium Facility, Tritium Facility, Hardened Engineering Test Building, and Radiography Facility). Four training sessions are scheduled during August and individuals that do not complete the training by September 1, 2005, will not have unescorted access to the NMTP facilities beginning a few days later. Administrative and protective service personnel will receive a tailored course by early October. Subsequent to the training sessions, the recipients of the training are required to pass a computer-based test on the subject matter.

The conduct of operations training is intended to ensure that NMTP employees adhere to the requirements of DOE Order 5480.19, *Conduct of Operations Requirements for DOE Facilities*, as promulgated by the *NMTP Conduct of Operations Manual*. The training focuses on topics within the order that facility management perceives as needing immediate improvement, most notably, procedure compliance, operating practices and safety plans, and operator aid postings. The training is likely to improve operations in the facilities, however, certain aspects of the *NMTP Conduct of Operations Manual* are not currently in place. For example, the manual describes "level of use" requirements for procedures, but the process for establishing the use level has not yet been integrated in facility operating procedures. Additional training on conduct of operations implementation will be necessary as the manual is fully implemented over time.