

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Report for Week Ending October 7, 2005

Plutonium Facility Conduct of Operations and Procedures: During the past year, internal and external reviews have concluded that conduct of operations (CONOPS) and the procedures program in the Plutonium Facility were less than adequate. Recently, facility management conducted a management self-assessment (MSA) that documented specific findings in these areas. Also, LLNL and the Livermore Site Office (LSO) readiness assessment (RA) teams documented additional findings. The collective reviews resulted in a number of pre-start findings related to conduct of operations and procedures that needed to be addressed prior to resumption of limited operations.

On September 29, 2005, LLNL notified LSO that all pre-start findings from the MSA and RA have been verified as closed. The issues related to CONOPS and procedures and the actions taken by facility management to disposition the findings are summarized below:

Pre-Start Finding	LLNL Disposition
Restart of work stations requires a checklist to ensure operability and compliance with facility requirements	Memorandum dated 9/20/05 provided criteria and process for resumption of work stations
Inadequate issuance and control process for procedures and manuals	Developed master document log, updated procedures and issued CONOPS manual
Mechanisms are not in place to ensure implementation of CONOPS manual	CONOPS manual implementation will be part of work station resumption process
Expired procedures	Procedures updated
Inadequate compensatory measure for use of expired procedures	Procedures that are planned to be used have been updated
Procedures do not contain "level of use" designation	Issued memorandum defining level of use generically for types of procedures
Process for documenting deficiencies not consistently used	Issued memorandum clarifying process
Inadequate oversight of use of hand and foot contamination counters	Issued memorandum to formalize management oversight

Despite the documented closure of the pre-start findings, the effectiveness of the corrective actions remains uncertain. Additional training should be provided on the CONOPS manual and assessments should be conducted to ensure effective implementation of the corrective actions.