

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 21, 2005

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)  
Report for Week Ending October 21, 2005

**DNFSB Site Activity:** Board Members Eggenberger, Mansfield, Matthews, and Bader were at LLNL this week to meet with the Livermore Site Office and LLNL management to discuss current safety issues. The Board was supported by staff members Fortenberry, Tontodonato, and Plau. On October 19, the full Board was briefed on the results of the Plutonium Facility readiness assessment and corrective actions taken to support the resumption of limited operations. The Board also received briefings on the path forward for the Plutonium Facility, including completion of a Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) to comply with the Nuclear Safety Management rule (10 CFR Part 830). LLNL has committed to implement the DSA prior to resuming full operations in the facility. LLNL also provided briefings on the progress made towards implementing configuration management for the vital safety systems in the Plutonium Facility and the other Nuclear Materials Technology Program facilities.

LLNL senior management is taking steps to ensure that Integrated Safety Management (ISM) is rigorously implemented at LLNL facilities. LLNL presented recent improvements in the ISM process including increased management commitment and accountability for safety, strengthening institutional-level assurance capability, and improving the feedback and improvement process. LLNL also reported that its Environment Safety and Health (ES&H) Manual has been enhanced to include documents for *ES&H Analysis Methods* and *ES&H Issues and Deficiencies Management*. In addition, the Board Members also received briefings on LLNL's support for operations at the Pantex plant including weapon response peer review and current technical issues.

Board Members Matthews and Bader conducted walk-through reviews of several LLNL facilities. On October 18, the Board Members and staff reviewed the Hardened Engineering Test Building, the Tritium Facility, the Plutonium Facility, and a number of radiological facilities. On October 19, the Board Members and staff also visited Site 300, the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center, and the National Ignition Facility.

**Plutonium Facility Resumption Status:** This week, facility management authorized resumption process operations for several work stations to support the highest priority programs. The work station resumption process includes verification of equipment and interlocks, review of operational safety procedures, and a conduct of operations checklist review. These pre-operational reviews must be completed and approved by the facility manager prior to resuming programmatic operations in the work stations.