

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 7, 2006

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** V. Anderson  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending April 7, 2006

Keilers was off-site this week. Anderson was on site providing site rep coverage.

**Plutonium Facility (TA-55):** This week, TA-55 closed the remaining open items associated with replacing about 1,200 sprinkler heads and returned to normal operation. TA-55 management abruptly placed the facility in standby six weeks ago after a fire protection engineer reported issues with sprinkler heads that might compromise their ability to function as intended (site rep weekly 2/24/06). The facility then entered an intense period of developing engineering work packages, mustering qualified work force, installing scaffolding, replacing the questionable basement sprinkler heads and all the main-floor sprinkler heads, installing other upgrades, and completing post-maintenance tests.

**Radiation Protection:** It was discovered this week that a maintenance subcontractor employee working on sprinkler head replacement in TA-55 had not given the appropriate baseline bioassay samples prior to performing work that required enrollment in LANL's bioassay program.

**Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Project (CMRR):** In February, LANL completed a quality assurance (QA) supplier evaluation of the vendor for the rad lab/utility/office building (RLUOB) and conditionally approved the vendor proceeding into preliminary design (site rep weekly 1/20/06). The RLUOB – a radiological facility – is the first project for this vendor that contractually requires compliance with the nuclear quality assurance standard NQA-1; therefore, success will require close monitoring as the vendor develops and demonstrates its QA program.

**Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF):** The TA-50 pump house and influent storage facility construction project has been struggling but has made improvements and fully resumed construction activities last week (site rep weekly 1/27/06). LANL review of the project's quality assurance program concluded that it is largely effective, and the previously identified construction issues appear correctable. While there are significant challenges, including approval of a budget reprogramming, a path-forward seems to exist.

**Critical Experiment Facility (TA-18):** LASO was notified last week that substantial quantities of legacy beryllium were being stored in Warehouse 1 at TA-18. LANL conducted surveys of Warehouse 1 and CASA 1 at TA-18 to determine the extent of beryllium contamination throughout the facilities, and found that the majority of the floor in Warehouse 1 exceeds the threshold values for classification as a beryllium contamination area. Although beryllium worker training had not been required for entry to Warehouse 1, all employees assigned to work there were trained as beryllium workers. LANL is now working to identify a path forward for the beryllium stored in the warehouse and associated contamination removal so that Warehouse 1 can return to normal operations.

**Contract Transition:** Los Alamos National Security, Inc. (LANS) completed their due diligence facility walk-downs this week (site rep weekly 3/17/06). LANS will now pursue roll-up of and development of a path forward for issues identified during the conduct of the walk-downs.