

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 17, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, Acting DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Report for Week Ending February 17, 2006

Activity Summary: Michael Merritt was on leave for the week. Jonathan Plaue was on site to provide support to the DNFSB site office.

Plutonium Facility Resumption Status: Workstation capabilities in the Plutonium Facility, as gauged by the resumption status of the Operational Safety Plans (OSPs), remain similar to last reported (see weekly report dated January 13, 2006). The current OSP status is as follows:

- 3 OSPs in operation;
- 17 OSPs in trial operations, 2 of which are pending management approval for release to operations; and
- approximately 30 OSPs still remain in various stages of the resumption process.

As described in the *Process for Standing-Up Workstations to Limited Operations*, trial period operations are intended to last for a maximum of 30 days; however, in practice many have exceeded this duration based on the infrequent need to perform certain activities. A process has been recently developed to better manage trial operations for these types of OSPs. In parallel to the workstation resumption process, LLNL is in discussions with the Livermore Site Office (LSO) to develop an approved Memorandum of Understanding for a readiness assessment (RA) to demonstrate that adequate progress has been made toward completion of a variety of corrective actions to support removal of the compensatory measures and a return of the facility to operations that were authorized prior to the stand-down. The corrective actions address implementation problems with eight Technical Safety Requirement administrative control programs and other previously identified deficiencies. A critical aspect of this process will be how the RA scope relates the identification and effectiveness of the corrective actions completed thus far to the justification for removal of the compensatory measures.

Heavy Element Facility Deactivation: Formal completion of the Risk Reduction Project (RRP) is expected in the near-term (see weekly report dated September 2, 2005). Currently, all gloveboxes and enclosures have been removed from the facility, with only a small number of waste drums awaiting transfer to the Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management complex. Most of the personnel associated with the project have been relocated from the facility and are being transitioned to other activities; however, it appears a few key personnel will maintain involvement as facility ownership is transitioned to the Space Action Team. A high-level institutional review is being conducted to help guide the facility's path forward as the RRP comes to closure. The review panel, consisting of personnel familiar with the history of the facility and experienced in this type of demolition work, is examining the current status of the facility documentation, as well as the state of and projected maintenance requirements for the equipment. The review results will be utilized in the development of a plan to maintain the facility in a surveillance and monitoring mode until adequate funding can be obtained to support the disposition baseline. It is also anticipated that LLNL will request LSO approval of a change in the authorization basis to account for the reduced hazards presented by the facility.