

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 19, 2006

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Michael J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)  
Report for Week Ending May 19, 2006

**Radiography Facility Operations:** Radiography operations were performed in the Radiography Facility twice this week. One operation involved radiography of a pit and the other radiography of a plutonium hemispherical-shell. The performance of the nuclear activities in the facility continues to improve. The most notable difference in the recent operations was the improvement in the process to develop work permits. The work permit has been revised to be consistent with improvements made for similar operations in the Hardened Engineering Test Building, Building 334 (see weekly report dated April 21, 2006). The improved work permit better defined radiological controls and criticality safety requirements. This week, the work in the Radiography Facility was completed in accordance with the Facility Safety Plan and the specific radiological controls identified in the work permits.

**LLNL Management Contract:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) recently released a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the competitive selection of a management and operating (M&O) contractor for LLNL. The draft RFP comment period will be open through June 5, 2006. The draft RFP seeks offerors with the capability to manage science, and operations and management performance at the lab. Elements of the draft RFP include:

- unique contract clauses intended to redefine the federal-contractor relationship; transition to industrial standards and best practices; to capitalize on private sector expertise; and increase contractor accountability and efficiencies; and
- an “award term” provision to permit extension of the resulting contract for incremental periods up to 13 years beyond the initial seven-year term as an incentive for superior performance.

NNSA will hold a pre-solicitation conference for prospective offerors in Albuquerque during the comment period, followed by a LLNL site tour. The final RFP will be issued after comments are addressed. Proposals will be due to NNSA 60 days after the final RFP is issued. The proposals will be reviewed by NNSA’s Source Evaluation Board, comprised of NNSA technical and business experts who will provide a report of findings to the NNSA Source Selection Official. Selection of the contractor is expected in early 2007 and full contract performance will begin on October 1, 2007. The current LLNL M&O contract expires on September 30, 2007.

With respect to the nuclear safety requirements, the draft RFP includes the LLNL Work Smart Standards (WSS) set dated February 23, 2006. The WSS set applies to LLNL and also includes directives and standards for LLNL Activities at Nevada Test Site facilities. The draft RFP also invokes DOE Manual 140.1-1B, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*.