

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 14, 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 July 14, 2006

DNFSB Site Representative Activity: The Site Representative attended the Plutonium Futures Conference in Pacific Grove, California this week. The conference was hosted by LLNL.

Plutonium Facility Evaluation of Safety: The Livermore Site Office (LSO) has completed its review of an Evaluation of Safety (EOS) related to the surveillance requirements for the room filter bypass dampers in the Plutonium Facility. LLNL had reported a Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA) on March 7, 2005 (ORPS report OAK-LLNL-LLNL-2005-0026). The concern was the potential inadequacy of the surveillance procedure to verify functionality of the bypass dampers servicing Increment 3 rooms. The Technical Safety Requirements (TSR) Surveillance Requirement Procedure did not call for verification that the bypass dampers would activate (open) if the flow downstream of the rooms dropped below 50 percent of the normal airflow rate.

LSO has concluded that LLNL appropriately identified the PISA and the resultant positive Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) determination. LSO also concluded that a TSR violation had not occurred since the LSO Facility Representative was able to confirm that testing had verified the bypass dampers would open at about 50 percent flow rate as required. A revised Surveillance Requirement Procedure corrected the deficiency and the surveillance was successfully performed on June 9, 2006.