

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 17, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
Report for Week Ending November 17, 2006

Configuration Management: On November 13, 2006, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) sent an updated status of configuration management commitments to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs. The update provided the most recent information from LLNL on configuration management implementation of vital safety systems in Nuclear Materials Technology Program (NMTP) nuclear facilities. According to the letter, the configuration management schedule has been re-baselined to realistically reflect the level of effort required to place procedures and drawings into the Enterprise Configuration Management System (ECMS). LLNL has implemented staffing changes including a new manager for configuration management who also manages quality assurance. New processes have been developed to prepare and track procedures and control red-line drawings. Plutonium Facility system design descriptions (SDDs) have been drafted and are pending final approval. Red-line drawings have been captured electronically and will eventually be formally updated. The current schedule focuses on the Plutonium Facility followed by the other NMTP facilities. The overall effort to fully implement configuration management in all NMTP facilities, including updating drawings is expected to be complete within six years. The letter is expected to be forwarded to the Board after review by NNSA.

External Safety Performance Audit: This week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted an audit of safety performance at LLNL. The GAO audit included an assessment of nuclear safety oversight and self-assessment, and a tour of the Plutonium Facility. The Site Representative met with the GAO audit team to discuss the status of nuclear safety issues and recent initiatives by the Board to improve the safety posture of LLNL nuclear facilities. The GAO team was particularly interested in the events leading to the stand-down of the Plutonium Facility in January 2005, and the process used to resume limited operations in October 2005, and full operations in May 2006.

LSO Senior Nuclear Safety Advisor: The NNSA posting to fill a Senior Nuclear Safety Advisor vacancy at LSO closed on November 15, 2006. The position was originally posted in May, and re-posted in July and October. LSO review of the candidates is expected to occur within the next few weeks.

Human Performance Improvement (HPI): The Site Representative participated in training sessions this week on *HPI Principles for Managers and Team Leaders* and *HPI Tools for Managers and Team Leaders*. The training was provided by instructors from Los Alamos National Laboratory and was intended to improve management's understanding of how human performance and behavior can affect the frequency and severity of events in facility operations. Earlier this year, Nuclear Materials Technology Program personnel – including managers, supervisors, and fissile material handlers – were required to receive the training in an effort to improve safety performance.