

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 4, 2002

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** C. H. Keilers, Jr.  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending January 4, 2002

The laboratory reopened on Wednesday, January 2, from the holiday recess.

**DOE Independent Oversight Review:** The DOE Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (DOE-OA) is planning an on-site evaluation in early Spring, covering Integrated Safety Management (ISM) core functions, the safety management system, the emergency management program, and the functionality of a selected essential safety system (e.g., Recommendation 2000-2).

In preparation, a DOE-OA team will be on site next week for a scoping visit, which will be focused on the following areas: ISM accomplishments, changes in emergency and environmental management as a result of the Cerro Grande Fire, LANL institutional actions as a result of the TA-55 Type A event, lessons learned from Recommendation 2000-2 reviews, and contract changes related to safety improvements (e.g., implementation of the DOE Conduct of Operations order, 5480.19). DOE-OA team members are also scheduled to walk down the ventilation system for the Chemistry and Metallurgical Research Building (CMR). The CMR ventilation system is currently not on the list for 2000-2 Phase 2 reviews (site rep weekly 12/7/01).

**Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Replacement Project:** The design for the EOC replacement project is currently at 60 percent with anticipated completion in July 2002. This project is an FY 01 line item intended to address emergency management issues identified during the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire. In October 2001, DOE approved LANL pursuing a design-build strategy (site rep weekly 10/12/01). Currently, the new EOC is envisioned to be a two-story building, nearly 38,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, that will consolidate LANL's emergency management and response activities, as well as Los Alamos County Fire, Police, and 911 dispatching. The dispatching center will be continuously manned. Besides EOC and dispatching, the building would include space for telecommunications, a standby diesel generator, uninterruptible power supply, boilers, chillers, other electrical/computer equipment, and a large garage for emergency vehicles. Building construction would consist of a cast concrete foundation, grout-filled masonry walls, and metal/concrete decks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and roof. Ground-breaking and construction start is expected within 3 to 4 weeks.

**LANL Authorization Bases (ABs):** In mid-December, LANL submitted to DOE a new master schedule for delivering upgraded AB documentation for both nuclear and non-nuclear facilities (site rep weekly 11/23/01). The new schedule reflects the increased workload to improve analyses, as well as the additional time for LANL quality assurance and management review. The initial submittal will be for the Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF) later this month, followed by the Critical Experiments Facility (TA-18) in mid-March and the Plutonium Handling Facility (TA-55) in early April. After that, major submittals for the remaining nuclear facilities without current ABs are expected at a pace of about one per month through January 2003. DOE and LANL appear focused on timely delivery, review, and approval of high-quality safety analyses. Close attention to this is required to ensure each of these facilities is able to safely operate within a well-understood safety envelope and efficiently accomplish its national security mission.