

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending November 13, 2009

Anderson, Deplitch, March, and Moury held a video teleconference with the site on Thursday to discuss aspects of the emergency management program for the nuclear facilities.

Institutional Processes: On October 29, 2009, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) conditionally approved the laboratory's corrective action plan for the deficiencies identified with the Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) process (see weekly report dated September 18, 2008). Overall, LSO concluded that the proposed corrective actions did not completely resolve the underlying problems or prevent a reoccurrence of the issues. As a result, three conditions of approval were stipulated for completion within the next 60 days, including: (1) submit for LSO approval a list of all document categories, including their detailed definition and applicability of the USQ process, used to operate nuclear facilities, (2) provide a plan and schedule for implementing the categories, and (3) provide a plan for tracking programmatic procedures used in the nuclear facilities to ensure appropriate execution of the USQ process. A fourth condition of approval provided LSO's expectation that the Nuclear Operations Directorate, as the functional area owner for the institutional safety basis program, review and concur on all new or revised facility-specific USQ procedures.

The last condition suggests a need to improve the specificity in the roles and responsibilities between the Nuclear Operations Directorate and the Nuclear Materials Technology Program (NMTP). The recent reorganization of NMTP provides a good opportunity to ensure appropriate alignment with the Integrated Safety Management system description and other contractual obligations.

Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management: On November 4, 2009, the laboratory submitted a revised hazards analysis table for the B695 segment of the Decontamination and Waste Treatment Facility (DWTF). The revised table fulfills a condition of approval (see weekly report dated July 10, 2009) and is the first step in preparation of the next annual update. A radiological material inventory of 2 plutonium-239 equivalent curies was evaluated in the table, which reflects a reduction from the currently analyzed value of 56. The laboratory also submitted the safety basis annual update for the Waste Storage Facilities. LSO has developed review plans for these submittals and expects to walk-down the facilities next week.

Uncontaminated water runs continue with individual unit operations in support of procedure development for liquid waste processing in DWTF; however, a formal plan and schedule for resumption has not been finalized. Likewise, the path forward on small-scale treatment operations remains indeterminate. Both of these process operations are approaching a year of dormancy.