

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 28, 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending September 28, 2012

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** On September 25, 2012, the staff conducted a video teleconference with Livermore Site Office (LSO) and laboratory contractor personnel. The staff discussed questions concerning the adequacy of the 2011 annual update to the safety basis for the Waste Storage Facilities currently awaiting completion of LSO's review and approval.

**Contract Management:** On September 11, 2012, LSO and contractor management jointly approved the Strategic Performance Evaluation Plan (PEP) for fiscal year 2013. The PEP will be used to award approximately \$40 million in potential award fee. In contrast to past years, the PEP relies heavily on high-level statements that generally do not set specific outcomes that can be objectively measured to guide the contractor's efforts and promote subsequent LSO evaluation. At the direction of National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Headquarters, this year's PEP was developed from a common template with five areas of performance objectives. Each performance objective area contains a number of contributing factors that are common across all NNSA sites, as well as several site specific outcomes. Content related to improving nuclear facility safety and operations is limited to: (1) a broad statement indicating that safety is an implicit element of successful mission performance and (2) two common contributing factors to, "Deliver efficient, effective, and responsive environment, safety and health management and processes" and "Create a work environment that achieves compliant and effect safety and security, and attracts the best and brightest scientists/engineers to execute our national programs." At LLNL, no site specific objectives pertain to improving nuclear facility operations.

**Inventory Reduction:** In a letter dated September 25, 2012, the contractor informed LSO that the development and training related to six new procedures associated with operations of the Strategic Rollup Areas (SRA) had been completed. These procedures involve the movement and storage of nuclear material, criticality safety, and personnel access control. This week, program and facility personnel performed practice evolutions under these procedures, while operations continued under a Security Category 1 posture. NNSA has not determined a schedule for activation of the SRA approach. This delay will benefit the revision and implementation of changes to process and procedures for topical areas outside of those with a direct security nexus (e.g., response to abnormal operating events). The contractor expects to revise many of these documents as part of implementation to the revised minimum staffing levels, if approved (see weekly report dated September 7, 2012).

**Safety Basis:** On Thursday, LSO approved the contractor's request to extend the implementation time frame for the annual safety basis update for the Plutonium Facility from October 29 to December 15, 2012. Separately, LSO transmitted additional review comments for the annual safety basis update for the Hardened Engineering Test Building and granted the contractor an additional two weeks to resubmit correction. The new comments included the issue pertaining to the minimum staffing table identified during the Implementation Verification Review (see weekly report dated September 14, 2012).