

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 5, 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending October 5, 2012

**Livermore Site Office (LSO):** This week, LSO personnel completed their extent of condition reviews for the Plutonium and Tritium Facilities that examined the adequacy of control flow-down from the hazards analyses. LSO initiated these reviews in response to issues concerning safety systems contained in the Board's letter dated December 13, 2011. While LSO identified a number of inconsistencies and areas in need of clarification, none of the issues identified were considered sufficient to initiate the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis process. LSO intends to have the laboratory contractor correct the problems in the next round of annual updates.

**Plutonium Facility:** This week, LSO approved the contractor's plan for Security Category 3 operations. As a result, Superblock personnel have initiated the use of the Strategic Roll-up Areas while the security posture is transitioned during the next several weeks. This week, LSO also approved the contractor's request to reduce the minimum staffing levels for off-shift hours without ongoing programmatic work (see weekly report dated September 7, 2012). This change is expected to be implemented at all of the nuclear facilities concurrent with the change in security posture.

**Safety Basis:** Last month, the contractor issued a revision to institutional procedure AB-002, *Preparation of Major Safety Basis Submittals*. The contractor created the revision in response to negative feedback provided by LSO in last quarter's Performance Evaluation Plan status. Changes to the procedure were intended to improve the quality and timeliness of safety basis submittals. In particular, the role of the facility manager was emphasized as the integrator and conduit for resolution of issues and the concept of a "red team" review was introduced to assess the consistency, coherence, and integration of issues judged as difficult by the division leader.

**Quality Assurance:** This week, the contractor responded to LSO's request to assess the impact of the findings from the recent review of Software Quality Assurance (see weekly report dated August 31, 2012). The contractor concluded that no compensatory measures were necessary for the safety systems and that the findings only resulted in documentation discrepancies that could be addressed as part of a future corrective action plan. The contractor also judged that an assessment of potential impacts of the findings to pure credited software applications (e.g., spreadsheets used to track material-at-risk) could be deferred to part of the corrective action plan. LSO is reviewing the response. A schedule for development of the corrective action plan has not been determined.

**Startup and Restart:** On October 4, 2012, the contractor transmitted to LSO the Startup Notification Report (SNR) for first quarter of fiscal year 2013. Of note, the contractor removed the Toxic Gas Control System (chlorination) activity in the Plutonium Facility citing the lack of funding. Chlorination had been on the SNR for many years. The Centralized Waste Processing Line was added to the SNR with a projected start date of September 2013 and the contractor proposed as the authorization authority.