

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 17, 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** S.A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaue  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending October 17, 2014

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** J.W. Plaue was on leave this week.

**Plutonium Facility–Readiness Activities:** On Wednesday, a Red Team kicked off a review of Safety Management Program (SMP) implementation in the Plutonium Facility. The Associate Director for Plutonium Science and Manufacturing is sponsoring this review with the stated objective of assessing the functional implementation of SMPs for compliance gaps between regulatory drivers and Plutonium Facility implementing documents, as well as to evaluate field implementation. The team is comprised of an independent group of senior professionals with expertise in relevant disciplines and will accomplish its review primarily through document reviews, interviews, and field observations. The SMPs that will be reviewed include those identified in 10CFR 830, as well as additional SMPs credited in the Plutonium facility safety basis.

The approved evaluation plan indicates that a necessary outcome of the review will be an endorsement of each SMP's technical adequacy, formality of operations performance, and whether implementation supports moving to the next phase of the readiness process for the Plutonium Facility. For those SMPs that cannot be endorsed by the team, specific details of the compliance gaps are requested. In addition to evaluating the health of Plutonium Facility SMPs, the review results will be used to develop the scope of future Contractor Readiness Assessments (CRA) for Plutonium Facility resumption.

The field office approved the Plan of Action for a CRA to establish an Americium-241 production capability in the Plutonium Facility (see 8/22/14 weekly). Of note, the management self-assessment of this activity is currently suspended due to identified procedure and labeling issues (see 9/19/14 weekly). The field office approval letter noted that due to the timing of this CRA and identified issues during other recent readiness activities, additional scrutiny is necessary, in particular with ensuring the relevant SMPs and the implemented safety basis adequately support this activity.

**Radiological Laboratory Utility Office Building (RLUOB)–Radiological Operations:** This week, LANL briefed the field office on plans for near-term radiological operations in RLUOB. RLUOB radiological operations commenced on August 28, 2014, at the current material-at-risk limits specified in DOE-STD-1027 for a Radiological Facility. LANL intends to increase the material-at-risk limits from the current 8.4g to 38.6g of Pu-239 equivalent as allowed by NNSA's supplemental guidance to DOE-STD-1027. This increase is targeted to occur in July 2015 and will accommodate transition of some additional analytical chemistry capabilities from the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building to RLUOB.

**Weapons Engineering Tritium Facility (WETF):** WETF personnel reported satisfactory results for the second 31-day monitoring period of oxygen monitoring system performance (see 8/29/14 weekly). One additional satisfactory 31-day monitoring period is necessary to declare the system operable prior to startup. Facility personnel continue to work on corrective actions from the issues discovered during the recent CRA (see 9/19/14 weekly). The facility startup plan includes completion of a checklist CRA to verify corrective actions are effective prior to the federal readiness assessment currently scheduled to commence in December.