

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 18, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: S.A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaué
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Report for Week Ending September 18, 2015

DNFSB Staff Activity: T.L. Hunt observed the contractor's readiness assessment of the Pit Flowsheet activities. J.E. Deplitch observed the emergency exercise described below. On Thursday, staff members A.K. Gwal, P.J. Foster, and B.K. Caleca conducted a teleconference with LANL personnel to discuss questions on the electrical systems at the Plutonium Facility.

Emergency Management: On Wednesday, personnel in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) conducted an exercise simulating the response to an earthquake. The scenario included the collapse and subsequent fire of a wing at the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building, hazardous material releases from two other facilities, and numerous impediments to local infrastructure and immediate response assets. Personnel from the DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments evaluated this exercise and briefed the NNSA Field Office on the issues they identified.

Transuranic Waste Management: Last Friday, the NNSA Field Office directed the LANL contractor to revise the *Master Plan for Enduring Waste Management*. The Field Office noted that many of the key assumptions in the 2012 version of the plan had significantly changed and that a higher level of assurance in waste management planning is needed to support transition of responsibility of Area G to EM. The Field Office also emphasized that final treatment of the remediated nitrate salt wastes warrants LANL's highest priority and provided a substantial list of elements to be addressed in the plan, which they requested by October 15, 2015.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, senior NNSA and EM Headquarters personnel toured the transuranic waste generating and management facilities and held an all-day workshop with personnel from both Field Offices and LANL as a follow on from the prior workshop (see 8/14/15 weekly). Notably, EM Headquarters personnel emphasized the need to work systematically and expeditiously through the myriad of safety basis issues present at Area G prior to considering receipt of newly generated wastes. For example, approved Evaluations of the Safety of the Situation do not exist for either the composite source term issue declared on April 29, 2015, or the new information formally provided by the NNSA Field Office regarding accidents for the remediated nitrate salts on June 25, 2015. As a result, NNSA has yet to formally accept the risks associated with these conditions.

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF)–Safety Basis: On Thursday, the NNSA Field Office transmitted to LANL a direction letter regarding the submittal of the TWF 90% Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSR). In the letter, the Field Office identified numerous major changes to the DSA and TSR that are necessary to ensure timely review and approval of future submittals. Field Office comments included classification of safety significant support systems, improper screening of certain worker hazards as standard industrial hazards, and initial conditions as design features.

Confinement Vessel Disposition Project: On Tuesday, LANL personnel transported from TA-55 to CMR the third of ten confinement vessels slated for disposition. The second vessel remains within the enclosure in CMR awaiting NNSA Field Office approval of submitted safety basis changes necessary to complete final processing.