

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 4, 2015

TO: Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: John E. Deplitch, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Report for May 2015

DNFSB Staff Activity: J. Deplitch and J. Mercier were onsite to observe contractor and federal readiness assessments for the resumption of operations in the Godiva building, May 11–15.

Device Assembly Facility (DAF): This month, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), completed bypassing the first leaking fire suppression lead-in line at DAF. NSTec tested the lead-in line, completed the required surveillance, and returned the building's fire suppression system to an operational status. NSTec then began work to bypass the next lead-in line, which may be completed in another month. NSTec plans to begin excavation of a set of lead-in lines on the south side of DAF in September.

National Criticality Experimental Research Center (NCERC): Los Alamos National Laboratory and NSTec conducted a combined contractor readiness assessment (CRA) for resumption of Godiva operations on May 11–15. The assessment focused on radiological control practices. The CRA team observed simulated operations with Godiva and Flattop, pre-job and post-job briefings, donning and doffing of personal protective equipment, post-burst and weekly radiological surveys, and responses to simulated alarms and contamination incidents. The CRA team conducted interviews with all personnel involved with developing, approving, and implementing radiological controls for the buildings with critical assembly machines. The CRA team identified one manageable pre-start finding and five post-start findings.

The Nevada Field Office predominantly conducted the federal readiness assessment (FRA) for resumption of Godiva operations on May 11–22. The FRA team observed operations concurrent with the CRA team. Also, the FRA team interviewed the radiological control technicians concurrent with the CRA team. The FRA team interviewed LANL, NSTec, and NFO management and operational personnel independently the following week. The FRA team assessed the portable air filtration system in the Godiva building in more detail than the CRA team. The FRA team will not complete its assessment until it reviews the closure of the CRA pre-start finding and the closure plan for the CRA post-start findings.

Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research Facility (JASPER): Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) personnel completed evaluation, repair, and testing of the new capacitor discharge units, which pre-fired on their first two shots. NSTec and LLNL resumed gun operations and successfully executed JASPER Surrogate Shot 127 on May 13. Shot 128 is scheduled for the week of June 8.